

## Government pumps in £220m to save and create jobs

It is to spend a further £220m on saving and the measures, with those announced last year, provide about 140,000 jobs or training places. £55m is allocated for industrial schemes, £50m

for improving public-sector housing, £30m for the job-creation scheme, and £55m to provide 30,000 to 35,000 extra training places in industry. The temporary employment subsidy is extended from six to 12 months.

## Employment subsidy extended: £55m for training

other jobs. Over the coming financial year the net effect on unemployment figures might be 70,000 jobs or training places.

The details are as follows: Industry: A further £55m allocated to improve the country's industrial base, for new schemes such as printing machinery and non-ferrous foundries, and to make available further funds for existing schemes, particularly ferrous foundries.

An additional £10m allocated to the Development Commission for the construction of small factories in rural areas during the next 12 months.

Finance: for the stockpiling of machine tools of types that are expected to be needed during the economic recovery.

Construction: A further £50m to be concentrated on the improvement of public sector housing, which can be started quickly and finished before the beginning of April, 1977. The measure is intended to succour an industry badly affected by the recession, and at the same time to make a social contribution by improving the stock of public housing.

Manpower: The temporary employment subsidy is extended from six to 12 months. The subsidy, begun in August, 1975, provides £10 a week for each worker where an employer agreed to postpone a redundancy of more workers. The minimum size of a qualifying redundancy is also reduced from 25 to 10 workers. Total cost: £16m.

The school-leaver recruitment subsidy is extended to those who left school at Christmas, 1975. The scheme had been limited to those who left school last summer or before.

It provides that employers who recruit unemployed leavers receive £5 a week for each recruit for 26 weeks. Total cost: £245,000.

A further £30m for the job-creation scheme. That found £40m for schemes approved by the end of June.

For training, another £55m, for which the Manpower Services Commission has put forward proposals to provide from next August between 30,000 and 35,000 extra training places in industry. About £45m applies to new first-year apprentice training; the rest to second-year apprentices and schemes for non-craft training of the kind being considered by the engineering industry.

The Treasury estimates that 55,000 workers will be covered by the temporary employment subsidy scheme. As no redundancy payments should be made to 20,000 to 25,000 more temporary jobs under the job-creation scheme.

The Chancellor came to the Commons with the air of a minister who expected to be attacked for persisting with cosmetic measures rather than a deep-seated attack on unemployment. In the event he had to provide that employers from his own left-wing critics behind him or the public expenditure vigilantes facing him on the Conservative benches.

On the Labour side, his help for the construction industry and for the stimulus to the machine-tool firms was openly

welcomed, and the statutory Tribune group pressure for immediate import controls did not seriously develop, although only the night before an influential Labour group within the Parliamentary Labour Party had rallied to the cause.

The PLP finance and economic group had had before them a Transport House paper demanding import controls, Mr Healey, once himself a research head at Transport House, dealt harshly with his successors: "I do ask my hon. friends to recognize that import controls on the scale recommended by junior officials at Transport House would certainly lead to massive retaliation from which world trade as a whole would suffer, and the poorer countries in the world would suffer most of all."

Nor was that all. Mr Healey scornfully said that the Transport House calculations of the employment effect of import controls, as quoted in the newspapers yesterday morning, were "grossly exaggerated".

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Parliamentary report, page 4

TUC welcome, page 17

## Students vote to compromise

will not and Health rate practice of 3 voted to 3 proposed Good-against, the 44 to one agency-only

## Precautions on locum doctors

Stricter control of the use of locum doctors is recommended by an independent committee today, describes the Health Authority. The committee was set up after a fatal anaesthetic accident at Orpington Hospital.

## Vatican criticized by Dr Coggan

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Coggan, in an interview published today, describes the Vatican's recent statement on sexual ethics as "somewhat lacking in pastoral guidance and tenderness".

## Frenchman had £365 benefits

A Frenchman who had £365 in social security benefits since arriving in Britain last October was recommended for deportation by Southend magistrates yesterday.

## Windhoek, South-West Africa: MPLA jet fighters intercepted

MPLA jet fighters intercepted a civilian airliner flying to Windhoek and forced it to land in Angola, South-West African Airways said here.

## Paris: President Giscard's belief that Europe lacks capacity of decision emerges in talks with Herr Schmidt

Belgrade: Yugoslav newspaper expresses anger over article by Bernard Levin on lawyer's prosecution.

## Feking: Foster campaign attacking Mr. Teng reveals strains among party leaders

advertisers, some of them tell us freely what they earn. Sport, pages 8 and 9.

## Winter Olympic Games: Czechoslovak ice hockey team penalized

United States win their second gold medal; Soviet Union dominates women's cross-country relay; Football: FA Cup fifth round match postponed; Rugby Union: Gibson asks to be relieved of Irish captaincy; Racing: Newbury process and Huntington report.

## Stock markets: Shares were quiet ahead of the Chancellor's statement on unemployment

Financial Editor: Why ICI might need more capital; commentary tale from Serck; Industrial finance; Electric Investment Trust.

## Business features: Short-term jobs and training to ease manpower problems

Benefits to industry from Chancellor's proposals; Maurice Corina; Business Diary: Manilla's scramble to be re-elected; September's IMF/World Bank meeting.

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## Rail town is last hurdle in MPLA's advance

Luanda, Feb 12.—Silva Porto, the last but one big town in southern Angola held by the pro-Western Unita movement, fell today to the Cuban and Soviet-backed forces of the Popular Movement (MPLA).

This leaves the railway town of Luso as the only centre of any significance still in Unita hands. Besides Silva Porto, the MPLA today also captured Mocim da Casa, the country's southernmost port, and Maquela do Zombo, a town 25 miles from the border with Zaire, in northern Angola.

In the north São Salvador is now the only important town outside MPLA control.

Radio Luanda said Unita and South African forces had retreated rapidly ahead of the MPLA's armoured columns.

advance, and had already abandoned Serpa Pinto and Pereira d'Eca, only 65 miles from the Namibian border. In the 24 hours up to last night, the MPLA's Cuban-led columns sped 180 miles southwards, meeting almost no resistance.

From Johannesburg it was reported that MPLA troops were only 133 miles from South African forces guarding the Ruacana and Calueque hydro-electric installations in southern Angola.

In a statement today outlining Angolan foreign policy after its admission yesterday to the Organization of African Unity (OAU), Mr Lopo do Nascimento, the Prime Minister of the MPLA's Government in Luanda, said: "Our independence, the fruit of the efforts of our people and of international solidarity demands from us a policy of solidarity with the brother peoples of Africa still under colonial domination, notably in Namibia, Zimbabwe (Rhodesia) and South Africa."

—Agence France-Press.

## Terminal illness Bill fails

Lady Wootton of Abinger's Incurable Patients Bill failed to get a second reading in the Lords yesterday by 85 votes to 23, a majority against the Bill of 62. Introducing the Bill, Lady Wootton said it was a measure aimed at relieving the suffering of terminally ill patients, not a measure to kill them.

From the government front bench Lord Wells-Pestell said that although the Government accepted the measure, careful consideration it could not support the Bill.

Lord George-Brown said he had seen his father, a dignified, honourable and distinguished figure, in the last few days of his life. Lord George-Brown said he would have been ready to administer not only the last rites but the end of his father's life.

Parliamentary report, page 4

## Human rights may be guaranteed by law

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

An indication that the Government is taking seriously the possibility of introducing human rights legislation was given last night by Mr Jenkins, Home Secretary.

Guaranteeing human rights was a question of mounting concern, he told the Birmingham Law Society. The Government had studied "this important subject" in the two main political parties were also making their own studies.

"Human rights legislation would affect every person in this country and I should like to see discussion extend more widely than the legal profession."

Mr Jenkins's speech was clearly intended to give impetus to that discussion. The Government's interests in the subject was apparent from a number of recent moves.

The Interdepartmental Study is by officials from the Home Office, Lord Chancellor's Department, Law Officers' Department, Lord Advocate's Department in Scotland, and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

There is no firm date by which the officials have to report back to ministers, who are keeping options open. Mr Jenkins said last night that the questions were complex and did not lead to a predictable answer.

"At the end of the day we might decide that basic human rights are already adequately protected here, or that they could be adequately protected without any radical innovation."

"Or we might see a clear need for new constitutional and legal developments in keeping with the spirit of our traditions, but reaching beyond the limits set by our existing institutions."

"At the present stage, we should try to ensure that study and discussion take account of all the relevant factors."

Like other members of the EEC, Britain was bound by the provisions of the European Convention, and since 1956 our obligations had been extended to allow complainants to petition the European Commission of Human Rights at Strasbourg about any alleged violation here of their convention rights.

It had been suggested that Britain should strengthen the effectiveness of her obligations by incorporating the convention into domestic law.

People who thought that their rights under the convention had been infringed would then be able to seek a remedy first before the United Kingdom courts, and only in the last resort before the commission in Strasbourg.

However, Mr Jenkins said: "Parliament is and will remain at the centre of our arrangements for protecting human rights."

Leading article, page 15

## Council is unable to fix 1976-77 rate

By John Young, Planning Reporter

Bexley Borough Council is unable to fix a rate for the coming financial year because the district auditor has so far refused to pass its accounts for 1975-76.

It is seeking to place £1m in a contingency fund to cover any previously hidden expenditure that may be revealed later.

Those disclosures are contained in a supposedly secret report by the council's director of finance, Mr Derek Phillips.

The report uncovers what can only be described as a story of extraordinary mismanagement, including the fact that the last time monthly expenditure was checked with the bank was in March, 1973.

The deterioration in the financial services has now reached proportions when neither I nor my chief finance officer can have any great confidence in the figures being put forward," Mr Phillips states.

The report largely blames shortages, a sentiment shared by Labour councillors, who have frequently accused the Conservative majority of meanness. The council has shown "repeated inability to recruit, train, motivate and retain personnel staff of the calibre required," it says.

It adds that on March 31 last year the council was owed about £1.5m in unpaid rates and nearly £200,000 in rent arrears.

Mr Phillips, 47, a former council leader, said last night: "The situation is a mess, but we shall recover. We were warned that our financial management was totally inadequate as long ago as last October, and that services were stretched to near breaking-point."

Financial experts would examine the situation, which was worse than expected. However, there was no evidence of fraud.

Continued on page 2, col 4



Frank Stagg: Death after 61-day fast.

## IRA man starves to death

By Clive Borrell and David Leigh

Armed policemen stood guard last night at the mortuary where the body of Frank Stagg, a Provisional IRA staff officer who died yesterday after a 61-day hunger strike, is being kept while inquest and funeral arrangements are being made.

Mr Stagg, aged 34, died at dawn in the hospital wing of Wakefield prison, West Yorkshire. His wife, Mrs Bridie Stagg, was with him and later went with his mother to the mortuary.

The Irish set in motion a nationwide police alert because of fears that the Provisional IRA might renew the bombing in England and Northern Ireland in retaliation.

Threats, made when Mr Stagg was placed on the danger list as his strength began to fail, that his death would be avenged by renewed terrorist attacks were being viewed gravely in London, Wakefield and his home city of Coventry. The police told the public, especially in those areas, to be on their guard, and said motorists should inspect their vehicles before setting off.

Scotland Yard said: "We ask everyone to be vigilant and if they see anything suspicious to tell the police immediately. Lives could be in danger."

An inquest will probably be held tomorrow. Mr Derek Highstead, national organizer of Sinn Féin, is handling the funeral arrangements. Mr Stagg was married to his wife, Mrs Stagg, in his Dublin home. In his call that the movement should provide him with a military funeral in the Irish Republic.

Mr Highstead, who was allowed into the prison before Mr Stagg's death, to his wife, said: "Although we realized for weeks that it might happen I never thought it would." Mr Stagg's wife had taken it very badly, she said, and was extremely distressed.

Before Mr Stagg's death his last words were: "I have a feeling of peace, a sense of calm, a feeling of being at home. I have no regrets. I have no regrets."

Mr Stagg's death, it was said, was a tragedy for the IRA and for the Irish people. He was a man of great courage and a man of great faith.

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## Royal commission to study lawyers' services and fees

By Marcel Berthins, Legal Correspondent

A royal commission on lawyers and legal services, with wide terms of reference including solicitors' monopoly of conveyancing, is to be set up, the Prime Minister announced in the Commons yesterday. The chairman has not yet been appointed, but he will not be a member of the legal profession.

The full terms of reference are: "To inquire into the law and practice relating to the provision of legal services in England and Wales and to consider whether any, and if so what, changes are desirable in the public interest."

The structure, organization, training, regulation of and entry to the legal profession, including the arrangements for determining its remuneration, whether from public sources or public funds, and in the rules which prevent persons who are neither barristers nor solicitors from undertaking conveyancing and other legal business on behalf of other persons."

The appointment of the royal commission was against the advice of the Lord Chancellor, Lord Elwyn-Jones. It came after a parliamentary campaign, led by Mr Jack Ashley, Labour MP for Stoke-on-Trent, South, and supported by legal organizations and some legal and other publications.

Mr Ashley warmly welcomed the commission, but asked the Prime Minister to ensure that most of its members were not lawyers, and that urgent reforms already being considered should not be delayed.

Mr Wilson replied that there would be full consultation about its membership. The work of the Law Commission and reforms under way would not be affected. He emphasized that the royal commission would have power to submit

interim reports on matters that it felt were particularly urgent. He added that urgent consideration would be given to appointing a similar commission, or some other form of inquiry, on legal services in Scotland, which, because of the different legal system, was not included.

On Tuesday a joint statement of the Law Society and the Bar said that the two branches of the profession would welcome a royal commission. Yesterday Mr Edmund Liggins, president of the Law Society, said: "At last we shall have the opportunity to dispel misconceptions and place the facts before an independent inquiry."

"A thorough examination of all the material factors will, I am confident, vindicate the lawyers of this country and demonstrate the paramount importance of public funds, independent legal profession."

Sir Peter Rawlinson, QC, chairman of the Bar, said at a Council of Legal Education dinner last night that the royal commission "would give the profession a chance to expose the falseness and superficiality of many of the current fashionable criticisms". It should not, however, prejudice important and urgent reforms in trial procedure, substantive law, and the fairer distribution of public funds by way of legal aid.

He also gave a warning against the commission's leading to the elimination of the independent lawyer, and his translation into a creature of the state.

Do-it-yourself: Mr. Kenneth Weerch, Labour MP for Ipswich, who yesterday headed a new do-it-yourself manual on selling a house, produced by a non-solicitor conveyancing firm, gave a guarded welcome to the announcement of the royal commission.

Parliamentary report, page 4

## Miners vote to ban overtime

By Tim Jones

The National Union of Mineworkers yesterday decided to impose a national overtime ban from Monday in protest against the planned closure of Langwith colliery, Derbyshire. Mr Gormley, president of the union, said he was surprised by the decision, taken by 11 votes to 10, with two abstentions.

The ban was approved in spite of a report from the union's own engineers, who said he agreed with the National Coal Board that the pit was uneconomic. Some of the left-wing members of the executive fear that to concede the economic argument about Langwith would create a precedent.

The coal board, which will try next week to persuade the electricity industry to use more coal in power stations, said the consequences were bound to be serious.

Miners killed: Mr Albert Smith, aged 46, and Mr Kenneth Bradshaw, aged 39, both of Bridgend, Mid Glamorgan, were killed last night in a roof fall at Wyndham Western Colliery, South Wales. Mr Des Owen, aged 29, was rescued.

Business News, page 17

## Executives of Lockheed may resign

From Frank Vogl, Washington, Feb 12

The two top executives of the Lockheed Aircraft Corporation are likely to resign shortly, it seems almost certain they will go until a special committee of Lockheed directors has completed a report on the company's past payments to officials abroad and this might not be before summer.

In a front page report today, however, The New York Times said that the two would resign in a "matter of days, or weeks at most."

The names mentioned were those of Mr Daniel Haugan, the chairman and chief executive officer and Mr A. Carl Kotchian, vice-chairman.

Mr Haugan has an international reputation as a tough fighter who never gives up. He won the name of "Desperate Dan" some five years ago when he fought to save Lockheed from bankruptcy. He is due to retire in September at 65.

Mr Kotchian has become the central figure in the scandal, due largely to the fact that he held a number of company jobs that involved him directly in foreign sales.

World payouts, page 6

## We fly the flag direct to Jo'burg every evening

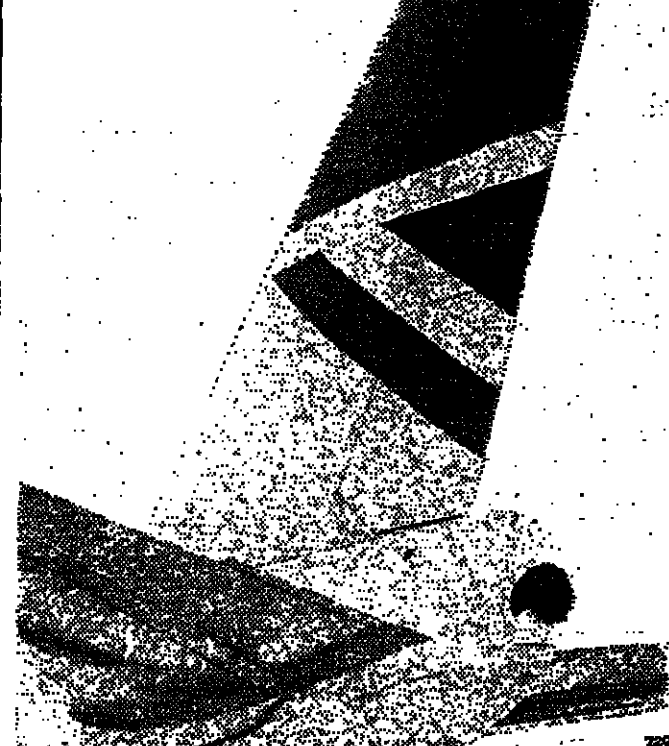
747s at either 1900 or 2045 depending on which day you fly.

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## Over 60,000 in Britain down with influenza

It is estimated that well over 60,000 people in Britain have influenza.

In London, all general hospitals have gone on "yellow alert", the first of two stages in an epidemic warning system.

The Department of Health said last night: "Our latest figures show that 79 people died in the week ended February 6. That is well above the previous week, when there were 32 victims, and the expected average of 52. But it is still well below the level we call the alert threshold."

Some schools in the Leicester and Northampton areas have been forced to close, and that services were stretched to near breaking-point."

Financial experts would examine the situation, which was worse than expected. However, there was no evidence of fraud.

The Royal College of General Practitioners emphasized yesterday that there was no immediate cause for alarm.

## Romsey Abbey workmen discover rose with petals intact after 850 years

By Philip Howard

Workmen have discovered what seems to be the oldest botanical specimen ever found in Europe in the east wall of Romsey Abbey. It is a rose, hidden in the wall more than eight and a half centuries ago.

The oldest rose in the world was discovered romantically two days before St Valentine's day, by workmen removing medieval paintings, from the east wall.

They noticed that the pious holes they used by workmen in the Middle Ages to support scaffolding, had been uncharacteristically plastered over.

They removed the plaster and found the rose, about an inch and a half in diameter, with











PARLIAMENT, February 12, 1976

## Conveyancing among subjects for inquiry into legal profession

House of Commons  
The **PRIME MINISTER** announced the setting up of a Royal Commission on the legal profession. Its terms of reference will be:

"To enquire into the law and practice relating to the provision of legal services in England and Wales and to consider whether any and what changes are desirable in the public interest in the structure, organization, training, regulation and control of the legal profession, including the arrangements for determining its remuneration, whether from private sources or public funds, and the extent to which barristers or solicitors are undertaking conveyancing and other legal business on behalf of other persons."

**MR WILSON** added: "The House will have seen this morning that the Bar Council and the Law Society have issued a joint statement saying that 'they would welcome the opportunity to participate in a comprehensive examination of the structure, its remuneration, its functions, its organization and the services it provides'."

**Mrs MARGARET THATCHER**, Leader of the Opposition (Baronet, Farnley, C), said the legal profession is a subject for inquiry. It is important that the commission should command the confidence both of the public and of the legal profession. Will be under wide consultation on its membership.

**MR WILSON**—Yes. In order that it commands wide confidence I am sure Mrs Thatcher, as a member of the legal profession, will agree that it would be appropriate not to have a lawyer as chairman of the royal commission.

The whole House recognizes the importance of the independence of the legal profession. The particular things being inquired into will include some of the public interest which there has been great public anxiety expressed about the organization and practice of the profession.

**MR DOUGLAS-MANN** (Merion, Mifham and Morden, Lab)—Will it be within the scope of the royal commission to consider the possibility of setting up a Ministry of Justice to deal with the antiquated and often inefficient administration of the courts, for which the minister has responsibility in the House?

**MR WILSON**—The question of a Ministry of Justice, often been considered in this country, debated in the House and considered by successive Prime Ministers. I would need a strong argument to convince me this was right. There is nothing in the terms of reference to preclude the royal commission from commenting on that matter.

**MR THORPE**, leader of the Liberal Party (New Forest, Lib), said the royal commission which examines any profession which has restrictions on terms of entry, whether lawyers or doctors, to see whether they are in the public interest. Why does this inquiry not extend to Scotland?

**MR WILSON**—The inquiry into the legal profession was set up in 1973, and it is not possible to extend its terms of reference to Scotland. It is not possible to extend its terms of reference to Scotland.

**MR LAWSON** (Blaith, C) asked whether the House Secretary would ask Sir Claus Moser as part of the inquiry whether the House should ascertain the numbers of Commonwealth citizens ordinarily resident in the United Kingdom and not yet naturalized, who none the less possessed immunity from deportation.

**MR ROY JENKINS**—On January 14 I announced that I was asking Sir Claus Moser to look into the circumstances in which the Commonwealth citizens were granted immunity from deportation.

I have received from him a report on how this error occurred, which has shown that it was due to a lack of coordination between the instructions which came into effect on January 1, 1973, and to defects in the supervision of those concerned in the counting.

Although it is true that I and my colleagues in the House should have been informed earlier that the error had occurred, I have found no evidence that any of the staff involved acted in such a way as to justify disciplinary action.

In my view of greater public importance is the significance which should be attached to the general figures of arrivals and departures of Commonwealth citizens. I am asking Sir Claus Moser for a supplementary report on this aspect.

I do not think it would be either right or proper that I should make a statement on this matter. I will inform the House in due course of the outcome of this review.

**MR PEART**, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (Worthington, Lab) moved that the House take note of the Commission's report on the proposals for 1976-77 and of the Government's intention "to seek satisfactory levels of support for the prices and further improvements in the operation of the CAP, especially in the milk and cereals sectors and to maintain the support for variable slaughter premiums in the EEC beef arrangements along the lines of the arrangements secured as part of the negotiated terms of EEC membership."

He said the Government always aimed great importance to maintaining the competitiveness of British agriculture and he had no difficulty in accepting an Opposition amendment which had questioned the size of the target price for cereals. The 7.5 per cent increase proposed in Community prices seemed to be on the high side and in the forthcoming year the Government would continue to look for restraint.

He did not accept the Commission's reasoning for the proposal to raise the premiums for the next marketing year. He wanted arrangements which did not rely

**MR WILSON**—It is right that the House should support the setting up of this royal commission. It is a long time since there were inquiries into these two distinguished independent professions, the doctors and the lawyers.

The question concerning inquiry should be held in respect of Scotland, who have their own system of law, and of Northern Ireland is still under consideration. Legal aid is clearly within the terms of reference.

**MR ASHLEY** (Stoke-on-Trent, South, Lab)—Would he ensure not only that the chairman of the commission should be a lay member but that there should be a majority of lay members? Will he ensure that any urgent legal reforms being considered by the Lord Chancellor will not be delayed by the Royal Commission?

**MR WILSON**—Legal reforms stemming from the work of the Law Commission and those of the Lord Chancellor will not be impeded by the announcement of the establishment of this commission. There should be no question of any delay in the form of membership for the Royal Commission.

**MR CHRISTOPHER PRICE** (Levensham, West, Lab)—There is considerable sympathy with the law society and the Bar Council has rushed in to welcome this. (Laughter.) Where does the House think the commission should be based?

**MR WILSON**—With regard to the location of the commission, the House should be aware that it is not to be a permanent body. It is to be a commission of inquiry. It is to be a commission of inquiry.

**MR ENGLISH** (Nottingham, West, Lab)—Will the terms of reference be wide enough to consider important proposals for an Ombudsman to deal with complaints against solicitors?

**MR WILSON**—This may be a matter for the Royal Commission to consider. It is not for me to say whether or not it should deal with such issues as he suggests.

In the House of Lords after the Lord Chancellor had repeated the Prime Minister's statement.

**LORD HILSHAM** of ST MARLEBOISE said the inquiry was foolish and unnecessary. One of the really important contributions made by the House of Commons is the number of inquiries we initiate about our various institutions.

**LORD WIGODER** (L) said the establishment of the commission would be a waste of time. It would be a waste of time. It would be a waste of time.

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## £60m net in coming financial year to ease unemployment

**MR HEALEY**, Chancellor of the Exchequer, in his statement about measures to ease unemployment, said what he proposed represented the most cost-effective way of providing jobs for the unemployed. It was estimated to be a further 3,000 or so workers within the scope of the scheme.

The gross Exchequer cost of the scheme is estimated at £14.5m and the cost of reducing the minimum qualifying redundancy at £1.5m.

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## Bill called 'murder by deliberate neglect'

House of Lords  
**LADY D'ARLINGTON** (Lab), moving the second reading of the Bill for the purpose of the Bill, said it was not a Bill to legislate, but a Bill to legislate.

The Bill had been grossly misrepresented. It was a Bill to legislate, but a Bill to legislate.

The Bill would greatly reduce the clamour for positive euthanasia. It was a Bill to legislate, but a Bill to legislate.

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The Bill would greatly reduce the clamour for



unemployment

NEWS

## plan to end council grip over education

**The Times** supplement: colleges of education, universities, and local authorities are to be reformed by a new system of governance, announced by the Conservative Party last night. The plan, which would give local authorities a greater role in the running of education, is seen as a major step towards the end of the council grip over education. The new system would involve the creation of a new body, the Education Council, which would be responsible for the overall management of education in the country. This body would be made up of representatives from local authorities, universities, and colleges of education. The plan also includes the introduction of a new system of funding for education, which would be based on the number of pupils in each school. This is expected to lead to a more equitable distribution of resources across the country.

## £10m to improve theatres in Edinburgh plan

A £10m plan to improve three Edinburgh theatres, giving scope for productions of all types, was announced by the Scottish Arts Council yesterday. The plan, which is part of a larger scheme to improve the arts in Scotland, will involve the renovation of the Edinburgh Festival Theatre, the Edinburgh Playhouse, and the Edinburgh Theatre Royal. The improvements are expected to be completed by the end of 1977. The Scottish Arts Council, which is a non-departmental public body, is responsible for the promotion and development of the arts in Scotland. The council has a budget of £10m for the current financial year.

## Widow cleared of murder

Doris Celia Croft, aged 50, a widow, who was said to have killed her husband, a man with a long record, was cleared of murder yesterday. The trial, which took place at the Old Bailey, lasted for three weeks. The prosecution had argued that Mrs Croft had killed her husband, who was 45 years old at the time of the murder, because he was a violent man and she was afraid of him. However, the jury found in favour of the defence, which claimed that Mrs Croft was not guilty of the murder. Mrs Croft was released from prison yesterday.

## Prince tests ship

The Prince of Wales took his first command, HMS *Bronington* (360 tons), yesterday. The prince, who is 34 years old, was seen on the deck of the ship, which is a minesweeper, as it sailed out of Portsmouth Harbour. The prince is the first member of the royal family to command a ship in the Royal Navy. He is expected to spend some time on the ship before returning to the UK.

## MENT continued that simple change in law solve obscenity problem

more on a jury rather than on a judge. In the circumstances I think it is an illusion to think there is a simple change in the law that would solve the problem. The current law on obscenity is complex and difficult to understand. It is based on the idea of 'public morality' and is subject to a lot of interpretation. The result is that it is often unclear what is and what is not obscene. This has led to a lot of uncertainty and confusion. A simple change in the law, such as the introduction of a new test for obscenity, might help to clarify the law and make it easier to apply. However, it is not clear whether such a change would be sufficient to solve the problem. The issue of obscenity is a complex one and will require a more fundamental review of the law.

## hts in seven and a half years

ENAIR-WILL had whether a submission was made by the House of Commons. The House of Commons is the lower house of the UK Parliament. It is made up of 650 members, known as Members of Parliament (MPs). The House of Commons is responsible for passing laws and for holding the government to account. The House of Commons has a long history and is one of the oldest institutions in the world. It is a key part of the UK's democratic system. The House of Commons is elected by the people of the UK. The members of the House of Commons represent their constituents in the House of Commons. The House of Commons is a place where the people's voice is heard. It is a place where the government is held to account. The House of Commons is a place where the laws of the land are made. The House of Commons is a place where the future of the UK is decided.



Mr. Tom Stephenson: Dream became reality

## The king of rambles is honoured

By Philip Howard  
Future generations will not find all the changes that we have made to the face of Britain in the past fifty years improvements. Some they will find quite inexplicable and even repulsive. But at least they will find it hard to disagree that the changes have been made for the better. The king of rambles, Mr. Tom Stephenson, has been honoured for his services to the rambling community. Mr Stephenson has been a leading figure in the rambling movement for many years. He has been instrumental in the development of the rambling community and has made many contributions to the field. He has been honoured for his services to the community and for his dedication to the cause of rambling.

The king of the rambles, longest fell-walker of the land, and pioneer of the long-distance hiker, Mr Tom Stephenson, celebrated his eighty-third birthday yesterday. Mr Stephenson has been a leading figure in the rambling movement for many years. He has been instrumental in the development of the rambling community and has made many contributions to the field. He has been honoured for his services to the community and for his dedication to the cause of rambling.

More than forty years ago Mr Stephenson made the absurd suggestion of a long green trail stretching half way across England from Epsom in Derbyshire to the Cheviots and the Scottish border. In 1955 his dream became reality, when the Pennine Way was opened.

Mr Stephenson was born in 1893 at Chorley, Lancashire, son of an engraver in a calico printing works who eventually had a family of nine. At the age of 13 the young Tom climbed Pendle Hill on the border of Lancashire and Yorkshire at this time of year and saw the snow-covered Pennines laid out before him under a blue sky.

He says: "My eyes were opened. I had not realised that England was so big. I made up my mind then and there that I was going to get to know the names and contours of those hills."

And so he did. In his long and varied career as a geologist, journalist, Labour Party official, prisoner as a conscientious objector, civil servant and official communist, Mr Stephenson was always a rambler at heart and for opening up the countryside.

The life and work of Tom Stephenson (Rambler's Association, 60p, post free).

## Data team chairman

Sir Kenneth Younger, chairman of the committee that produced the 1972 report on intrusion into privacy, is to head the Data Protection Committee.

## Community health councils—5: Fulfilling the role of 'patient's friend' Success depends on winning public's faith

By Neville Hodgkinson  
Although not entitled to investigate individual complaints, community health councils can act as a "patient's friend" to complainants, giving advice and support. Their effectiveness in that function, more than in any other, depends on the public knowing what, who and where their council is. Some councils, however, have still not had permanent premises approved by the regional authority. Rochampton CHC, for example, has a single room measuring 10ft by 8ft for its secretary and her assistant. Not surprisingly, it remarks in its annual report that "the community we serve does not yet know of our existence or function". The council's offices, including Wandsworth, have shop premises at the heart of their district. Darlington CHC says in its annual report that its prime concern has been lack of information and consultation. Mr Reginald Watson, the secretary, says the council is quite sober and responsible, with a wide spread of membership and a wide age range; and yet it feels strongly that the district management team is not giving it a chance to make meaningful comments, even on important matters. Bolton CHC reports that with new hospital and administrative staff settling down in new posts after the reorganization, enthusiastic CHC members "appeared as yet another army of Big Brothers breathing down super-sensitive necks, as they made their maiden voyage to the health service establishments which they are statutorily entitled to visit". East Berkshire CHC comments in its annual report that the doubts and fears of NHS staff about the CHC role have been allayed. But that council has experienced what is possibly a more disastrous alienation from a large section of the public that it is supposed to be representing. Faced with a decision from the area authority that one of three maternity units in East Berkshire had to be closed, the council accepted the area's proposal that it should be the one at Cliveden Hospital, Taplow, near Maidenhead. The acceptance prompted demonstrations, a stormy meeting attended by about 150 people, and a petition with 18,000 signatures, all directed against the CHC rather than the area authority. The local chairman of one of the health service unions accused the council of being a "rubber stamp" authority, and said he would recommend the union to have nothing more to do with it. Mrs Jean Robinson, chairman of the Patients Association, says the incident was "a classic example of the mess which a well-meaning but naive CHC can land itself in". The association had a long correspondence with the secretary of Oldham CHC over a complaint passed on to him from a woman concerning the Oldham and District General Hospital. She claimed that in 1973 the hospital failed to provide her with a high protein, sugar-free diet ordered by her consultant, on the grounds that it was too expensive and time-consuming to prepare. Other patients had had similar difficulties, she said, and she claimed to have spoken with a young woman who had recently also been refused a special diet at the hospital and had been told by the sister: "What do you think this is, a three-star hotel?"

## Mental patients stay off the voters' lists

From a Staff Reporter  
Warrington  
Legislation that is thought to disfranchise about 70,000 long-stay patients and "residents" in British hospitals for the mentally ill is to be challenged on the grounds that it contravenes the European Convention on Human Rights. Mr Larry Gostin, legal adviser to Mind, the National Association for Mental Health, said this at Warrington yesterday, after the failure of a test appeal brought to a public hearing on behalf of five patients at Warrington Hospital. The hearing was conducted under provisions of the Representation of the People Act. It arose because Mr William Lawton, Chief Executive of Warrington borough and electoral registration officer, had proposed to delete the names of 574 patients at the hospital from an electoral list published last November. Newton constituency Conservative Association had objected to inclusion of the names. Mr Lawton's decision to delete the names, which he upheld himself at yesterday's hearing, was made on the grounds that section 4 of the 1949 Representation of the People Act stipulates that anyone who is a patient "in any establishment maintained wholly or mainly for the reception and treatment of persons suffering from mental illness or other mental disorder is not thereby to be treated as resident there". Mr Gostin submitted on behalf of the two women and the "resident" that the hospital, who gave evidence that they had no other address and had little opportunity of obtaining suitable accommodation. He said the 1949 Act did not automatically exclude patients in the psychiatric wards of general hospitals from voters' lists in the hospitals' areas. Mr Lawton said he was not influenced by the question of whether the 574 patients had the mental capacity to vote. Dismissing the objections, Mr Lawton said his decision was based entirely on "the apparent anomaly in the law" that patients in mental hospitals, unlike those in general hospitals, could not be registered for electoral purposes. He added: "It is no concern of mine what the law should be, but what the law is."

# Why the fight for freedom and high standards in British Medicine must continue. And why you should join it now.

The government is proposing to remove pay beds and separate independent practice from National Health Service hospitals. It further proposes to introduce a system of licensing to limit the provision of independent facilities outside the NHS. The main bodies representing the medical profession have already warned the Government that these proposals are almost certain to harm ALL patients—whether of the NHS or the independent sector. Because this warning has been ignored, the organisations listed below feel compelled, in the public interest, to restate the main points of their case.

The fact is that the proposals will serve no useful purpose whatsoever. They will:

- 1. Fail to shorten NHS waiting lists**  
Pay beds are only 1% of the total in the NHS. Even Mrs Castle's Department has admitted 'it is not possible to confirm that waiting time for a consultation will be reduced and the waiting time for admission will shorten when pay beds are phased out'.
- 2. Cost the British taxpayer substantial sums of money**  
Private patients in NHS hospitals pay the full cost of their accommodation—in addition, of course, to their ordinary tax contributions. The loss of this income, which amounts to many millions of pounds each year, cannot make sense for a service which is already desperately short of money—or for the patients it is increasingly hard-pressed to serve.
- 3. Lead to further shortages of medical staff in the NHS**  
The NHS is already short of consultants. Removing their right to engage in a limited amount of independent practice in the same hospitals as those in which they serve the NHS can only make recruitment more difficult.
- 4. Lower medical standards generally**  
The present 'mixed' system was agreed at the foundation of the NHS, so that the NHS should benefit from all the skills and experience of doctors, some of whom might otherwise have worked entirely in the independent sector. NHS patients have undoubtedly benefited—and will, just as certainly, now suffer if the two sectors are rigidly separated. Even where consultants continue to mix independent and public medical practice, the necessity of commuting between hospitals to do so must, inevitably, reduce their availability in emergencies. Again, it is the patients who will suffer. Despite the Government's protests to the contrary, their proposals could lead to a State monopoly in medicine. A doctor's primary loyalty, which is to his patient, could be threatened by the demands of the State. Is that what you want?
- 5. Destroy a precious liberty**  
Private medicine is not the preserve of the rich. It is there for everyone, and it can be afforded by everyone—health insurance costs less than smoking. You can choose either the NHS or private treatment; you are not committed always to follow one course or the other. At present you have freedom of choice within the NHS. The present Government's intention is to diminish that freedom to a very grave extent. Do you want this to happen?

In the belief that the Government's proposals will have no effect other than to lower the standards of British health care and to hurt patients, the representatives of the bodies listed below have committed themselves to support the Campaign for Independence in Medicine. The Campaign will seek, by every constitutional means, to persuade the Government to abandon plans as dubious in principle as they are likely to be harmful in practice. If you support these aims, we urge you to make your views known—to your MP, community health council, trade union or professional organisation.

## Campaign for Independence in Medicine

Representing: The British Medical Association, the Hospital Consultants and Specialists Association, the British Dental Association and the Independent Hospital Group.  
1 Maltravers Street, London WC2R 3AX.



## WEST EUROPE

## New Italian Cabinet of 'old faces' sworn in

From Patricia Clough  
Rome, Feb 12

Signor Moro's fragile new Christian Democrat minority Government was sworn in today amid open expressions of discontent by the rank and file of the party.

He unexpectedly announced the Cabinet list last night without waiting for the final consultations with the party's parliamentary leaders arranged for this morning.

It was understood here that he was urged to do so by President Leone, who was anxious to avoid any further delays in ending the five-week-old crisis.

The new Cabinet was almost identical to the last except for a few adjustments to replace the four outgoing Republican ministers and Signor Luigi Gui, the Interior Minister, named in the Lockheed corruption scandal.

Was this fact which increased backbench Christian Democrats, who have been demanding new faces in the Government.

The parliamentary leaders had proposed that all former prime ministers, all those with more than 10 years in office be dropped from the Cabinet. Signor Michele Zolli, one of the deputies, expressed "deep bitterness" that their "names had been ignored and that the 'internal oligarchies' were being perpetuated."

After a long and heated debate the party leaders in the Chamber of Deputies agreed to support the Government but to "draw the personal consequences" later. They were expected to resign their party posts and probably renew their battle during next month's party congress.

The new Government, Signor Moro's fifth and the 38th since the fall of the Mussolini dictatorship, is widely expected to be one of the shortest-lived. Its main task is to introduce emergency measures to deal with the current economic and monetary crisis and to halt rising unemployment.

But it has little time at its disposal.

Signor Moro's new administration was presented with its first difficulty even before it was sworn in at midday. Signor Forlani, who continues in his post as Defence Minister, refused to take on the additional appointment of acting Interior Minister.

The appointment, he said, was made without his consent.

Signor Moro later solved the problem by having himself sworn in as acting Interior Minister. It was understood that the post was being kept for Signor Gui who had asked to be excluded while he fought charges of accepting bribes from the Lockheed Aircraft Corporation.

## Mediterranean states agree to prevent pollution

From Our Correspondent  
Madrid, Feb 12

Representatives of 16 countries agreed in Barcelona today to work together to prevent pollution in the Mediterranean.

The agreement was reached by all the countries bordering on the Mediterranean except for Algeria and Albania.

The agreement binds the governments to take all appropriate measures to cut down and prevent pollution and the dumping of crude oil, radioactive waste, mercury and certain other substances. The dumping of certain other dangerous products such as lead, copper, arsenic and fluorides can be authorized but only under controlled conditions.

The Barcelona conference was called by the United Nations Environment Programme. It took several days to reach agreement.

There was also some difficulty about voting rights for European regional organizations.

## Duchess treated in Paris hospital

Paris, Feb 12.—The Duchess of Windsor, who is 79, is being treated in the American Hospital at Neuilly for a recurrent spell of weakness, hospital sources said today.

She was admitted to the hospital on Friday and is expected to be allowed home in four or five days, the sources said.—UPL

## Europe MPs vote for higher farm prices

From David Cross  
Strasbourg, Feb 12

Members of the European Parliament today came out strongly in favour of granting the European Community's nine million farmers a 9.5 per cent increase in agricultural prices over the coming crop year.

The final vote at Strasbourg today revealed that two-thirds of the members supported more generous terms than those suggested by the European Commission when it proposed increases averaging 7.5 per cent at the end of last year. Only the majority of Socialists in the chamber, including British Labour MPs, were in favour of the original proposal.

Although the Parliament's vote is not binding on member governments, who have committed themselves to taking a final decision by the end of the month, the British Government campaign to keep farm price increases to a minimum in the interests of the consumer is now likely to be further



President Giscard d'Estaing (right) greets Herr Helmut Schmidt on his arrival at Nice airport for two days of consultations.

## Giscard belief that Europe lacks political capacity of decision

From Charles Hargrove  
Paris, Feb 12

President Giscard d'Estaing believes in the value of symbols. He decided that the two-day Franco-German "consultations"—the new term preferred by the French for these twice yearly summits—should take place in the idyllic setting of the Mas d'Artigny, a luxury hotel set among the hills near St Paul de Vence.

On his arrival at Nice airport, he said the idea was to bring home the fact that co-operation between the two countries not only concerned their Governments but also their peoples. The next meeting, in July, will be held in Hamburg.

The latest word of speculation which has driven the franc downwards and the mark upwards within a sorely tried European "snake" is not officially on the agenda of these consultations. It is not, according to French sources, a specifically Franco-German issue; but it is inconceivable that it should not be raised within the framework of the survey by the West German Chancellor and the French President of economic prospects for the present year.

President Giscard d'Estaing said in an interview with *Nice-Matin*: "Never have Franco-German relations been as close as today. In the construction of Europe they are a factor of stability and creativity. With-

out Franco-German understanding there is no Europe. It remains indispensable to every progress it makes. It is rather a lack of understanding between the two countries which could justify fears among other partners. They have nothing exclusive and do not prevent one or the other from having confident and friendly relations with our other European partners."

The vastly different performances of their economies in last year's economic crisis might appear at first sight an obstacle to this close Franco-German cooperation; but the President and the Chancellor have the same way of looking at problems and make the same analysis of the situation.

M Giscard d'Estaing's "great preoccupation", he said on arrival at the Mas d'Artigny today, was the absence in the Community of "political capacity of decision."

"It is obvious; Europe is absent. It takes no part in events, and no one seems to think it can. The question is whether Europe wants and is able to give itself this power of decision."

If it had weathered the difficulties arising from enlargement and the economic crisis, it was largely due to the creation at the end of 1974 of the European Council. Now the President wants to strengthen the "political capacity" of the Community by creating a sort

of permanent delegation or "directorate", based on the Franco-German "backbone", together with Britain.

This is one of the questions he will discuss with the Chancellor in what he described as "the first exchange of views on the future of the Community before the European Council meeting on April 1 and 2."

M Giscard d'Estaing is more than ever persuaded that the necessary impulse and incentive to progress in European affairs can only be given by a small group of countries which have the weight and experience in foreign policy to do so; but he is not thinking of setting up another European body—rather a small pragmatic "ginger group" of heads of government, within the framework of the European Council.

The feeling in Paris is that the Chancellor agrees with the need for something on the same lines.

Britain is considered by the President to be the third natural candidate for the group. There has never been any doubt in Paris that it will come to its economic difficulties, and all the talk in the press and the lobbies about writing Britain off as the "sick man of Europe" does not reflect his standpoint.

In spite of some misgivings in Gaullist ranks, the majority stands behind the President's European policy.

## Lip workers face job cuts in new rescue operation

From Richard Wigg  
Paris, Feb 12

Shop stewards at Lip, the French watch-making concern, today demanded publicly that the workers should be informed what is happening as fresh troubles faced the firm.

These include the threatened dismissal of 150 out of the 900 workers employed at present. The Socialist-led shop stewards have warned the management that the workers will refuse any pruning of labour, in spite of Lip's falling sales last year and growing stocks of watches and parts.

At the weekend, the French Government decided to pump more money into Lip on top of the 57m francs (£6.3m) the Besançon firm received jointly

from the state and French big business during the rescue operation in 1974.

The latest troubles are essentially due to the economic downturn which has hit the ambitious plans of M Claude Neuschwander, the director-general of the factory, appointed in 1974 to win new markets.

A large advertisement appeared in the situations wanted column of *Le Figaro* yesterday announcing that Lip was seeking a new director-general, although M Neuschwander still officially occupies the post.

The new director-general, a statement by Lip's backers said at the weekend, would be entrusted with carrying through the second Lip rescue operation.

## Daughter, 22, of industrialist is kidnapped

Rome, Feb 12.—Three masked men kidnapped the 22-year-old daughter of a cement company executive in the garage of the family villa as she was preparing to leave home today, police said.

The men fled by car before police set up roadblocks in the area. The family of the girl, Marina D'Alessio, refused to talk to reporters. Friends said the family had feared a kidnapping for some time and had kept Marina's younger sister home from school as a precaution.

More than 50 kidnaps were reported last year and this is the sixth this year.—UPL

## Madrid strike over accused journalist

From Our Correspondent  
Madrid, Feb 12

The Madrid daily newspaper *Nuevo Diario* did not appear today because of a strike by journalists in sympathy with a colleague who has been sent for trial before a military tribunal for refusing to disclose his sources.

Journalists on other newspapers held meetings during the day to discuss taking action. A general meeting of the Madrid Press Association was expected to be held to take a vote on whether to halt the production of other newspapers.

Senior Rodrigo Vasquez Prada, a reporter on the staff

of *Nuevo Diario* and a director of the Madrid Press Association, was indicted by a political court on a charge of refusing to give evidence.

While journalists discussed what action to take, an estimated 70,000 building workers in Madrid came out on strike demanding that arrested colleagues should be freed and that those dismissed from work for political reasons should be reinstated. The strikers also wanted a £40 a month and other benefits.

A spokesman for the industry's strike organizing committee said the police had arrested 62 people this week, most of

them at a demonstration on Tuesday night. Delegates from the Workers' Commissions, the illegal and powerful underground trade union movement, held a sit-in in the offices of the industry's state-run trade union.

The Government's commission to study constitutional reform met for the first time yesterday and agreed that the country needed reforms quickly. The commission, which has 16 members and is headed by Señor Carlos Arias Navarro, the Prime Minister, is made up of members of the Cabinet and the Council of the National Movement.

## Nationalists put Scotland's terms to EEC

From Our Own Correspondent  
Strasbourg, Feb 12

An independent Scotland would expect the option of its own seat "at the top table" within the EEC, Mrs Winifred Ewing, the Scottish National Party member of the European Parliament, said today.

But before the present Nine became 10 there would have to be some very hard bargaining. In particular, there would have to be a radical reform of the Community's fishing policy and proper safeguards over the control and extraction of oil from the Scottish sector of the North Sea, she suggested.

Mrs Ewing, who was addressing a press conference, said her party had conveyed these views in a letter to M Georges Spénale, the French president of the European Parliament.

## OVERSEAS

## Returned mercenaries not to face criminal charges over execution of comrades in Angola

By a Staff Reporter

No criminal charges are to be brought against any of the British mercenaries returning from Angola in connexion with the execution of 14 of their comrades.

Scotland Yard said last night that five men who had been questioned since their return to London on Tuesday had been allowed home. But any other mercenaries returning to Britain would still be questioned about the Angola incidents.

Detective Chief Superintendent Henry Mooney, who has been heading the inquiries, said: "After very careful consideration of all the circumstances and after consultation with the Attorney General, the Director of Public Prosecutions has decided not to institute any proceedings pursuant to the jurisdiction established by Section Nine of the Offences Against the Person Act, 1860, against any person who has been interviewed by the police in relation to the alleged killing of British personnel in Angola."

As the detectives wound up their questioning of the last of the 45 men who flew into Heathrow on Tuesday, there were reports that another batch of mercenaries may leave Britain soon.

Mr Leslie Aspin, who is in Holland, has said he will form a new company called BAB Ltd to perform the same function as Security Advisory Services (SAS), the Camberley recruiting firm of which he was a partner.

Yesterday Mr John Banks, who worked for the company but split up from Mr Aspin, said he had been told by his volunteers that Mr Aspin was planning to send more men out soon. Mr Banks said he also planned to recruit again but would not send men from Britain. He refused to say what country he would use.

On the political front, Mr Callaghan, the Foreign Secretary, last night expressed surprise at a letter from Mr Ronald Maudling, the Conservative spokesman on foreign

republic and the club claims to be a "social and recreational organization" which offers soirées of cool beer and camaraderie for its members every Friday night.

However, a senior official of the club told me today that it could muster several hundred battle-hardened men within 24 hours to fight in Angola should the need arise. "Despite the latest set-backs for the pro-Western forces, I am confident we could still play a role in Angola. If we had been called in a year ago, the situation would be different now. But it is still not too late."

Apparently Colonel Hoare, no longer respectable business broker in Durban, with staunch anti-communist views, has been involved in negotiations with his former patron, President Mobutu of Zaïre, for the past 18 months. President Mobutu has been one of the principal backers of the Angolan National Liberation Front (FNLA) and Union for the Total Independence

of Angola (Unita) movements.

However, so far, no agreement has been reached—despite a figure of \$10m (about £5m) being mentioned as payment for mercenaries' services. According to sources close to the "Wild Geese Club", Colonel Hoare is fastidious about the sort of war he takes part in.

Not only must his men be well and regularly paid, but they must also receive the right sort of equipment, particularly in a conflict like the Angolan one where the opposition has Soviet-made T54 tanks and MIG 21 jets at its disposal.

Zaïre's announcement last week that it would not allow its territory to be used by foreign mercenaries would seem to put an end to any hopes the "Wild Geese" had of intervening from that side. But there remains the vast, underpopulated southern part of the country where the first case where a mercenary fought a guerrilla war, the South Africa fight?

Will South Africa fight? page 14

## Col Hoare awaits the golden egg

From Nicholas Ashford  
Johannesburg, Feb 12

The geese have not yet flown to Angola. They remain cooped up in Johannesburg waiting perhaps in vain for a golden egg to be laid with which to finance their journey.

The geese are members of the "Wild Geese Club", an organization formed by the former Congo mercenary leader Colonel "Mad Mike" Hoare for members of his No commando unit and other soldiers of fortune of similar experience. The golden egg is a "contract" covering pay and equipment without which Colonel Hoare will not commit his men to fight against the left-wing Government for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA) and its Russian and Cuban allies.

As is to be expected, "Wild Geese Club" members are fairly secretive about their membership and its activities. Government frowns on the recruitment of mercenaries in the

republic and the club claims to be a "social and recreational organization" which offers soirées of cool beer and camaraderie for its members every Friday night.

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Will South Africa fight? page 14

## Payouts on a world scale

More than 20 large American companies have in recent years spent a total of more than \$300m (about £150m) abroad in questionable payments to secure business contracts. The table shows some of the alleged payments

Company	Amounts \$	Country	Alleged Recipients
Lockheed <sup>1</sup>	1m to 1.2m	Holland	"High Dutch government official" for military aircraft sales
Lockheed	100,000	Holland	Same official for TriStar sales
Lockheed	over 7m	Japan	Mr Yoshio Kodama (Independent consultant)
Lockheed	over 2m	Japan	Government officials
Lockheed	at least 2m	Italy	Political parties, individual politicians and officials
Lockheed	8,000	W Germany	Two unidentified political parties
Lockheed <sup>2</sup>	106m	Saudi Arabia	In commissions, mostly to one businessman
Exxon Corp	59m	Italy	Politicians, officials and political parties
Gulf Oil Corp	4m	S Korea	Democratic Republic Party
Gulf	480,000	Bolivia	Government officials
Gulf	50,000	—	A Beirut group to promote Arab propaganda in US
ITT	39,000	Belgium	Government official
Mobil Oil	2.1m	Italy	Political parties
McDonnell Douglas	Various	Turkey	Payments include agent's fee of \$168,000
Northrop Corp <sup>3</sup>	450,000	Saudi Arabia <sup>4</sup>	Two generals
Northrop	4,400	Iran	An official
Northrop	15,000	Indonesia	An official
Northrop	1.8m	Switzerland	—
Northrop	2.3m	Brazil	Air Force officers
Northrop	61,000	France	General Paul Stehlin
United Brands Co	75,000	Italy	Officials
United Brands	1.25m	Honduras	Officials

<sup>1</sup> Total Lockheed payments secretly made abroad to government officials or politicians put at \$24.6m.  
<sup>2</sup> Other Lockheed payments, full amount not known, in South Africa, Spain, Nigeria, Iran, Indonesia, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Mexico, Colombia, Sweden, Hongkong and Philippines.  
<sup>3</sup> Northrop's total payments believed to be around \$30m.  
<sup>4</sup> Other payments by Northrop running into millions of dollars were reportedly made to Saudi officials through Mr Adnan Khashoggi, a businessman. Smaller payments listed to officials, or former officials, in Germany and the Middle East.

## Stern Kissinger warning on company bribes

From Frank Vogt  
Washington, Feb 12

Dr Kissinger, the American Secretary of State, said today that every effort must be made in the future to ensure that United States international companies do not bribe foreign officials to secure business.

The recent disclosures could have very serious consequences, he said, for the stability and domestic situation of countries where officials are said to have accepted secret payments from American firms.

The Secretary of State told a press conference that the Administration "strongly condemns" the use of such practices and it is disturbed about the actions that some companies are alleged to have taken. Today, the State Department received a request from Mr Sumihiko Ito, the new Japanese ambassador in Washington, to provide all available information on the payments by the Lockheed Aircraft Corporation to consultants and officials in Japan.

The State Department and the ambassador are likely to be kept busy. Informal sources in the Senate multinational subcommittee has a large number of documents on Lockheed dealings in Japan in addition to the considerable volume that it released last week.

These additional documents, which are believed to contain some receipts from agents and cash transfer papers, might be released to the public tomorrow.

The financial future of Lockheed and indirectly that of Rolls-Royce, which is an important supplier of engines to Lockheed, could be seriously affected by the latest disclosures.

The company fears the revelations could lose it business abroad. Efforts are now being made on Capitol Hill to pressure the Treasury to determine whether Lockheed, by its secret payments, has violated the terms of its \$195m (about £97m) of Government loan guarantees.

The Lockheed disclosures have not indicated that any improper dealings took place with regard to British purchases and agreements with the company. The series of hearings of the multinational subcommittee in the Senate in the last year have at times raised questions of whether British-based international companies are as guilty as lines of the British Government's latest offer.

## Mr Ford to campaign again in vital state

From Patrick Brogan  
Washington, Feb 12

New Hampshire at the end next week and devote him to some serious campaign. There is now a good possibility that Mr Ronald Reagan, former Governor of California, will defeat the president in primary there on February 23 and Mr Ford's only chance of escaping that humiliation is to take to the campaign trail hope for a miracle.

New Hampshire is not only of the United States; it is a crucial number of delegates to the party convention and it is no tangible reason why he should drive Mr Ford from the field.

In the 1968 Democratic primary in New Hampshire, however, President John won, but only just (49.6 per cent to Senator Eugene McCarthy's 41.9 per cent), withdrew from the race afterwards. In 1972, Sen Edmund Muskie won, but Mr Ford's only chance of escaping that humiliation is to take to the campaign trail hope for a miracle.

The two setbacks were bold, but sufficient. These experiences are remembered well on both sides of political fence that candid now disclaim any hope winning.

They all profess to be that they will campaign a good second or third place the poll, albeit such claimers convince no one.

If Mr Reagan wins in Hampshire, he could lose Massachusetts on March 2 then win in Florida on March 13, but he would be doing terrible damage to Ford's hopes for the nomination.

There are another primaries after that, most in states where the 1972 stands a better chance than does New Hampshire. Florida, however, has been observed that every President elected since the New Deal first won the New Hampshire primary.

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## Yugoslav anger over Levi article on lawyer's plight

From Dossa Trevisan  
Belgrade, Feb 12

An article by Bernard Levin in *The Times* on the plight of the Yugoslav lawyer Srđja Popovic, who had defended many political dissidents and is himself to be prosecuted for a plea he made in court on behalf of a defendant, has provoked an indignant comment in the Belgrade newspaper *Politika*.

It describes Mr Levin's article as "profoundly insulting to every Yugoslav". Always sensitive to outside criticism, the Yugoslavs were particularly angered by Mr Levin's remarks about President Tito—but even more, it seems, by the parallel he drew between the President and General Franco. This evidently added insult to injury and provoked the paper's attack on not only Mr Levin, but on *The Times*, which published the article, and the BBC, which broadcast it in its Serbo-Croatian language programme.

*Politika* described the article as a typically cold war anti-

Yugoslav pamphlet whose parisons with General Franco were "extremely less" and "profoundly insulting because no such parallels have been drawn between the President of Yugoslavia and the man who led in the war a active and heroic allied force", with the late Srđja Popovic.

Mr Srđja Popovic has meantime returned to Yugoslavia from a six-week Western European tour and formed the court that the trial can be set. The was due to be held December, but because of Popovic's absence it was postponed.

The Yugoslav lawyer's ciation so far has taken official stand in defence of its members. But many years have expressed nation and pledged full support for Mr Popovic in the first case where he is threatened with trial if trying out his professions

## Iceland ship blamed for risk to life

By Our Diplomatic Staff

The Ministry of Defence has accused the Icelandic coast-guard vessel *Baldur* of endangering the lives of the crew on board the trawler *Ross Rodney* while cutting a trawling wire on Wednesday.

In a statement issued early yesterday, the Ministry said that the captain of the *Baldur* had completely misjudged, his ship halting. "As a result, the cutter gear ripped down the side of the trawler, passing over the deck and endangering the lives of the trawler crew."

Against this unpropitious background, Dr Luns, the Secretary General of Nato, returned to Brussels after his talks with Mr Wilson and Mr Callaghan, the Foreign Secretary, about Britain's dispute with Iceland, which is also a member of the alliance. Dr Luns is expected to be in touch shortly with the Icelandic Government.

The next move will depend on Iceland's reactions to Mr Wilson's latest ideas for a solution. It seems that the Icelanders are not greatly impressed by the voluntary limitations on Britain's catch agreed last weekend with the fishing industry.

David Cross writes from Strasbourg: Mr John Prescott, Labour MP for Kingston-upon-Hull and member of the European Parliament, is to try to mediate in the dispute between Britain and Iceland. He said at a press conference today that he will meet Icelandic leaders in Reykjavik in the next few days.

Mr Prescott, who has been a lone British spokesman for the Icelandic case in defiance of the general line taken by British MPs in fishing constituencies, wants to discover whether there is any chance of the Icelanders accepting a new deal along the lines of the British Government's latest offer.

## Bomb set at Hearst castle hon

San Francisco, Feb 12.—A bomb exploded today in a house at the late 1 Randolph Hearst's San castle in central California, extrajudicial, Spanish-style mansion, by the late newspaper magnate, who was the father of Patricia Hearst, who is on an armed robbery.

Miss Hearst's father was in court attending trial, denounced the act as a "rapid, vicious" do to the news of the Call. He explained that the house was part of the given to California family after William R. Hearst's death. The tourists' death, a business deal for question, the explosion.

At the trial, the judge to accept evidence against Miss Hearst's prints on it, described Government as "a lun of things to do if one was to rob a bank."

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to reject in advance a dialogue with the Palestine Liberation Organisation. If the PLO dropped its demands for Israel's "liquidation", he added, talks should be held with the organisation.

He called for talks with any Palestinian group that would recognize Israel as a sovereign Jewish state and would be satisfied with the existing situation on the West Bank and in the Gaza strip "with some sort of connection between them".

Right-wingers believe that Mr. Allon's move will be interpreted as a sign that Israel is weakening its refusal to meet the PLO. The evening newspaper *Yediot Aharanot*, which usually expresses right-wing views, argued that Professor Avineri's appointment "will lower Israel's image even more in the United States, where this will doubtless be interpreted as a sign of preparedness on Israel's part for withdrawals and concessions on each and every one of her fronts, serving as a signal to Dr. Kissinger".

The Likud has tabled an urgent motion for the Knesset agenda to denounce the appointment. It has also been criticized by Mr. Ze'evim Hammer, the Minister for Social Welfare, and the Cabinet Minister for the Jewish Settlement throughout the West Bank. He described it as "a

## Lebanon's banks reopen after two months

Beirut, Feb. 12.—Banks in Lebanon reopened today after a two-month closure at the height of the civil war, but many bankers said there was no rush to withdraw funds.

Financial experts said this reflected the people's faith in the ceasefire agreement worked out by Syrian and Lebanese leaders on January 22. Since then "life in the capital has slowly returned to normal."

Large numbers of security men guarded Beirut's business centre, while others kept watch inside the banks.

Political sources said many people were now hopeful for the future because the latest ceasefire, unlike the 25 others before it, had been accompanied by a political agreement. The civil war, they estimated, caused \$5,000 million in damage to Beirut hotels.

A delegation from the union drew up the estimate and submitted it to the Ministry of Tourism after an inspection tour of the hotel district yesterday. —Reuters, AP and UPI.

## Invitations go out for an Arab summit

Cairo, Feb. 12.—Arab heads of state were today invited to a summit conference to settle differences among themselves and decide policy towards Israel, Arab diplomatic sources said.

Mr. Mahmoud Riad, secretary-general of the Arab League, said he sent the invitation to publishers with Revised Music, a collection of hymns and gospel songs used by the Christian Mission, as his Army was known until 1878. This contained such hot gospel tunes as "Gather at the River, Rescue the Perishing, and of every kind of music, playing, singing the happy song, Loud hosannas, shout with the happy throng."

Booth's attitude to music was strictly evangelical. He wrote in his preface: "It would be an unexpressed grief to me were I to find that the publication of this volume had diverted the attention of anyone from spiritual service to mere human performances, however pleasing or attractive."

In the early days, at least, he need not have worried. The performance of the first Salvation Army bands was agreed by the British government in 1887. Since then, more than 1,000 congregational tunes, and nearly 10,000 songs with music, a circulation of 25,000; a quarterly called *The Musical Salvationist*; four separate journals with different aspects of music for bands; and many individual publications. Major Ray Steadman-Allen, head

## Jordan adopts Syrian style for its army

Amman, Feb. 12.—The Jordan Council of Ministers announced today that Army laws and the designation of Army ranks will be unified with the Syrian Army style. This is the order to achieve closer coordination and unification, the official announcement said.

King Husain and President Assad of Syria formed a joint political committee and wish to decide on war and peace "last spring. They have drawn steadily closer since then and have exchanged several visits." —AP.

## says reported curb on crossing bridge is insult to church

More recently, a Knesset member alleged that United Nations officers and Christian dignitaries were being denied immunity from search at the Jerusalem airport. Christian leaders have protested at this accusation.

Since taking over from the late Prime Minister Golda Meir, Dr. Haddad has assumed responsibility for the reorganized diocese of Jerusalem which includes the Anglican and Episcopalian communities in Jordan, Lebanon and Syria as well as in Israel.

The diocese has 24 priests and more than 4,000 communicants, most of them Arab. The bishop soon found he was treading an ecclesiastical minefield. An ecclesiastical newspaper, *the Jerusalem Post*, demanded the presence of Israeli officials at the service marking his elevation, though this was simply a matter of protocol observed by all churches.

Earlier, the *Jerusalem Post* had carried reports implying that the appointment of an Arab bishop to Jerusalem marked a political shift towards the Arabs by the Anglicans.

Church leaders were of the economic and social problems caused to his fellow Arabs by the Middle East dispute, Dr. Haddad has studiously refrained from political expressions.

But, as the only Arab head of a major religious community in Jerusalem he faces heavy pres-

## gress government at may fall

There is a possibility that the Congress Party, which has 73 members in the House, may challenge the Janata government in the Assembly, which is in session. Mr. Patel has also said: "Let us prove its strength in the House."

The Punjab Assembly has unanimously adopted a resolution urging the Indian Government to persuade the British Government to exempt Sikhs from wearing helmets while riding motor-cycles in the United Kingdom. The resolution said that there were strong feelings among the Sikh community against the British law.

Dacca, Feb. 12.—Indian and Bangladeshi officials are holding talks here aimed at settling problems which have led to disturbances in the northern border of Bangladesh.

Reports in the local press said that gunmen who attacked police stations on the border at Mymensingh and kidnapped a police officer and his family last month operated from Indian territory and carried sophisticated weapons. —Reuters.

## Portuguese Timor 'under pro-Indonesian control'

Jakarta, Feb. 12.—Portuguese Timor is now entirely controlled by pro-Indonesian forces, the armed forces newspaper *Angkatan Bersenjata* reported today. It quoted General Maradon Panggabean, the Defence Minister, as saying that the left-wing Fretilin independence movement no longer administered any territory.

Speaking after talks yesterday with President Suharto, he said: "The fact that the United Nations envoy was unable to meet Fretilin forces in Timor proves that the whole of East Timor is now controlled by the provisional Government," the general stated.

The envoy, Signor Vittorio Winspeare Guicciardi, was reported to have conferred with Senhor Melo Antunes, the Portuguese Foreign Minister, in Lisbon yesterday. He also held talks with officials of the pro-Indonesian Provisional Government in East Timor and the Indonesian and Australian Governments as part of his fact-finding mission; but he failed to meet certain representatives on Timor soil.

The Indonesian press reported last week that Indonesian flags had been hoisted in all parts of Portuguese Timor.

Canberra, Feb. 12.—Mr. Andrew Peacock, the Australian Foreign Minister, said today that, short of an armed conflict with Indonesia, Australia could only use its good offices with the United Nations and with Indonesians themselves to ease the East Timor crisis.

In a television interview, Mr. Peacock said he regarded Australia's relationship with Indonesia as being of "extraordinary importance" and that it needed to be regarded by speaking frankly to friends.

The Australian Government believed there were certain acceptable standards of international behaviour, which had been breached in the Indonesian invasion of the Portuguese colony. Australia would ask to speak at the Security Council when it discussed the report on Timor from Signor Guicciardi. —Reuters.

## Hint of strain among China leaders

Peking, Feb. 12.—A wall poster campaign against Mr. Teng Hsiao-ping—who was expected to become Prime Minister after the death last month of Mr. Chou En-lai—has started at Peking University amid signs of increasing strain within the Chinese leadership.

Foreigners who visited the campus said posters clearly alluding to Mr. Teng had been pasted up, accusing him of being a "capitalist road" and the emotive term used for Chairman Mao's enemies during the Cultural Revolution.

Until last week, Mr. Teng, a senior Deputy Premier, was seen as one of the strong men in the state hierarchy; but last Saturday China surprised the world by appointing Mr. Hua Kuo-feng, the Security Minister, as acting Prime Minister.

Sources said posters started appearing at Peking University two days ago. They did not mention Mr. Teng by name but identified him by quoting his most famous saying: "I do not care whether a cat is black or white, the important thing is whether she catches mice."

Mr. Teng, a political moderate, was attacked as a "capitalist road" by ultra-leftist Red Guards during the Cultural Re-

volution. He disappeared for six years but was rehabilitated in 1973 and gradually took over the ailing Mr. Chou's duties.

One of the posters referred to an "old capitalist roader" who formed cliques round himself, a foreign source said. Another accused him of backing critics of Chairman Mao's education policies. The campaign began when a 45-page poster appeared and others rapidly followed.

They accused the subject of emphasizing production and damping the class struggle, while referring to a capitalist roader who came out into the open last summer, when a debate over university education was under way behind the scenes. Chinese who were seen reading the posters confirmed for one foreigner that the campaign was aimed at Mr. Teng.

Only last December, Mr. Teng was host during President Ford's trip to China and on January 15 he was given the honour of reading the eulogy at Mr. Chou's memorial service. He has not been heard of since.

Experienced observers said he appeared radicals had balked his candidacy for the premiership; but so high is the respect for his talents and so

unpredictable the path of Chinese politics that Sinologists here hesitated to write Mr. Teng off as a political force.

Many observers saw the selection of Mr. Hua as acting Prime Minister as a compromise between radicals and moderates, and a sign of heated debate in the Communist Party hierarchy.

Meanwhile, the *People's Daily* today published its second attack within a week on unnamed capitalist roaders. An article by Shanghai steel workers declared that a struggle had to be waged against "those who refuse to repent and who vainly attempted to alter the party's basic line."

Foreign students at Peking University were allowed into the restricted area where the posters were displayed and take notes. They reported special buses carried Chinese to the site.

Some posters were said to attack people who wanted to practise revisionism and restore capitalism. Another stated that in the eyes of "reactionaries the student strike disorder was the consequence of the Cultural Revolution and the revolutionary line of Chairman Mao." —Reuters.

## Fighting off the Devil with a brass band



The Household Troops Band of the Salvation Army: 1887-1891. Formed under the inspiration of "Mr Herbert" Booth who was in charge of the training garrison at Clifton. He organized campaigns throughout the British Isles and some on the Continent. This was the forerunner of the Home Office Band—later to become the International Staff Band. Staff-Captain Appleby was the leader.

A brass band on a street corner trumpet-ing, thumping, jingling, and generally making a joyful noise to God means one thing: the Salvation Army. It is a hundred years since William Booth recognized that music could be a weapon of salvation, and decided no longer to let the Devil get away with all the best tunes. 1878: he set up as music publisher with Revised Music, a collection of hymns and gospel songs used by the Christian Mission, as his Army was known until 1878. This contained such hot gospel tunes as "Gather at the River, Rescue the Perishing, and of every kind of music, playing, singing the happy song, Loud hosannas, shout with the happy throng."

Booth's attitude to music was strictly evangelical. He wrote in his preface: "It would be an unexpressed grief to me were I to find that the publication of this volume had diverted the attention of anyone from spiritual service to mere human performances, however pleasing or attractive."

In the early days, at least, he need not have worried. The performance of the first Salvation Army bands was agreed by the British government in 1887. Since then, more than 1,000 congregational tunes, and nearly 10,000 songs with music, a circulation of 25,000; a quarterly called *The Musical Salvationist*; four separate journals with different aspects of music for bands; and many individual publications. Major Ray Steadman-Allen, head

accident. Charles Fry, a Salisbury builder, and his three sturdy sons were enlisted as bodyguards for meetings. Fry senior happened to play the cornet. His sons all played brass instruments too. So they brought their instruments along, and started to accompany the songs in the market-place, in between bouts of chucking-out hoodlums. Early Salvation Army music was identified with symbols for those who could not read. A picture of a boat at the top of the sheet signified *Out on the Ocean Sailing*. Oh to be Over Yonder was indicated by a drawing of a weary man fumbling his way towards an armchair. There was considerable persecution of these primitive Army bands, under local environmental by-laws against noise nuisance, perambulation of the streets, and disturbance of the peace. Many bandmen were imprisoned.

The Army has travelled a long way in the century since those discordant pioneering days. This year 10,000 Salvation Army bandmen in Britain are celebrating their centenary with "music on the march" down the main streets of Britain. Since 1878 the Army has published 3,000 books, more than 1,000 congregational tunes, and nearly 10,000 songs with music. It publishes weekly *The Musician*, with a circulation of 25,000; a quarterly called *The Musical Salvationist*; four separate journals with different aspects of music for bands; and many individual publications. Major Ray Steadman-Allen, head

of the Army's international music editorial department, has a staff of five to satisfy the voracious demand for new music. Their principal current project is a completely new congregational song book called *Keep Singing* to be published in June. Next door to their offices they have a fine museum exhibiting such influential musical instruments as "the Founder's Organ" and the fiddle of Richard Slater, the father of Salvation Army music.

It is no longer a matter of massed tambourines and brass making up in volume for what they lack in pitch and key. The quality of the music has improved, so that the top Salvation Army bands rank with the finest brass and silver bands in the land.

Ray Steadman-Allen has a degree in music from Durham University, and is a prolific composer. The current issue of the main band journal includes an elegant and tricky new trombone four-way by him entitled *Sparkling Slides*. But music still takes second place to salvation. Ray Steadman-Allen says: "You cannot evaluate Army music aesthetically, without taking into consideration what the Army is for. We have no wish to be the musical outcasts of the world. But our music must continue to be functional as distinct from purely aesthetic. Our mission, our message, our praise, and our worship embody our musical function."

Philip Howard

## Why your body needs those golden slumbers

Difficulty in sleeping is one of the most common reasons that people consult their doctors. Hundreds of millions of sleeping tablets are swallowed every year in an attempt to combat insomnia. Is "a good night's sleep" as valuable as we believe, or is sound sleep a luxury rather than a necessity?

Answers to this question are beginning to emerge from the sleep research laboratories that have sprung up since the development of methods of recording brain activity during sleep. All our time asleep is not spent in the same state. For most of the sleeping hours the body is quiet and relaxed with the heart rate and breathing slowed. Four stages of this type of sleep can be recognized, with its depth becoming progressively more profound from stage one to stage four. A second type of sleep is recognizable from the bursts of rapid eye movements (REM) that occur and from changes in the electrical behaviour of the brain. In this "paradoxical" or REM sleep the heart rate and respiration speeded and blood pressure through the brain is greater than when awake. Anyone woken from REM sleep will recall vivid dreams; in contrast, if awakening occurs during stage sleep any recollection of a dream is most unusual. The dreams that occur in REM sleep may not be recalled at the end of the night, but an individual may have had an uninterrupted night's sleep even though he woke and gave a vivid account of a dream to a companion.

Typically we pass into deep, stage three or four, sleep shortly after dropping asleep, and after 90 minutes or so we move into the period of REM sleep. The two states then alternate throughout the night, with the REM periods becoming predominant towards morning, and with increasingly long periods, too, of lighter stage two sleep. About half the night is spent in stage two, 20 per cent in stages three and four, 25 per cent in REM sleep, and 5 per cent dozing or in light, stage one sleep.

The body's irresistible need for sleep suggests that it has some vital function, and evidence is accumulating that most bodily restoration, repair and growth take place at night. Almost all of the secretion of human growth hormone occurs during sleep, when several other hormones, such as prolactin, reach peak concentrations. New cells are formed in the skin and other organs most rapidly shortly after the start of sleep, and it seems that the amount of the deep stages of normal sleep is closely associated with physical fatigue. Men who have taken strenuous exercise throughout the day seem to need more of this type of sleep.

In contrast, REM sleep is mainly concerned with restoration of the brain to alertness. The increase in blood flow through the brain in this stage suggests that energy is being consumed by the synthesis of new brain protein. Certainly during the first year of life,

when the brain is growing rapidly, a baby spends half its sleeping hours in REM sleep. Sleep is closely linked with memory—which explains the ease with which poetry or a speech may be learnt if read through a few times at bedtime. It is tempting to speculate that the vivid dreaming that occurs during REM periods is due to some process of the brain sorting the events of the previous day before they are entered into the memory banks.

If, then, sleep has these restorative roles, how much do we need? Individual variation is disconcertingly large. Some of us sleep nine or more hours a night; others function perfectly on between two and three hours. Even newborn babies may sleep for as little as 10 or as many as 22 hours a day, but it is certainly true that children sleep longer than adults and we all recognize that sleep requirements decline gradually during the first 20 years of life.

Less well-known is the progressive decline in sleep that continues through adult life until late middle-age. So conditioned are we to the concept of "eight hours good sleep", however, that most people spend just as long in bed each night at the age of 50 as they did at 20; but less of this time is spent in sleep and more in dozing. With age, too, the sleep pattern becomes more broken, and awakenings in the night more frequent. In old age sleep and wakefulness alternate round the clock, with frequent cat-naps during the daylight hours. At

## A shopper's guide to Price Check

There is an important difference between the Government's new Price Check scheme and the "voluntary" agreement to hold down prices which lasted until June last year; it is the expenditure of up to £10 million of Government money on publicizing the new scheme.

Price Check is the programme holding prices down to a ceiling of 5p in the pound until mid-August on items of importance in household shopping bills. The list agreed by the Government, industry and shopkeepers includes a few foods.

As soon as grocers heard about the Government advertising budget they became keen attackers, longing to kick inflation in the shins and clout it round the head.

The attraction was this: grocers knew that the Government would put commercials on television saying that inflation was being curbed on certain products thanks to Price Check. That would give a marvellous boost to the grocer who could buy the next seconds of air

time to say: "This is how we are cooperating with the Government on your behalf."

Co-operative Societies and Spar shopkeepers have decided to use the red triangle symbol in their own publicity. Many other companies will do likewise in a great fan-dango of advertising and what sometimes comes close to confusing rather than clarifying. Here is what to look out for.

Holler-than-thou attitudes. Some companies may phrase their advertisements in a way

that makes it appear that they are somehow cooperating more ardently than their rivals. Take no notice. Price Check was agreed at the highest level for almost all the shopkeepers in the country on equal terms.

Trading gambits. Some companies strive constantly to enlarge sales of goods packed under their own labels because they have greater control of supplies and prices of these than of national brands like Heinz, Crosse & Blackwell, and so on.

Price Check presents a golden opportunity to cash in on anti-inflationary fervour by holding down prices of own-label goods in order to increase sales. Spar grocers said yesterday that they would apply the 5p in the £1 ceiling operating on Price Check to several Spar products that were not on the Government's list. They ranged from instant mashed potato to tomato sauce.

Asked if his company was merely listing products that



were not likely to rise anyway, and which had recently been increased, Mr. Michael Reynolds, managing director of Spar, said: "There are certain items that have had marginal increases in price. I think biscuits have gone up 1p."

Unrealistic price gaps. This is not directly linked to Price Check, but results nevertheless from Government tinkering. Some supermarkets have taken to pricing subsidized foods like cheese and butter with labels that say: "Statutory maximum price X, our price Y." The gap between X and Y usually appears large, but only because the statutory maximum is academic and of more interest to lawyers than shoppers.

The maximum is the very highest that any shop in the country is allowed to charge, and a comparison with that and supermarket prices is not a practical guide to value.

Hugh Clayton

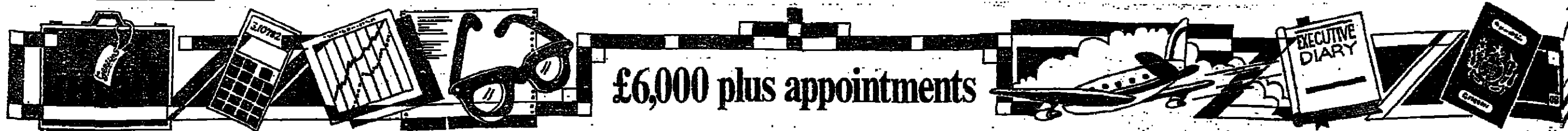












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Salary indicator is £19,500 with car provided.

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## The tell or not to tell argument

Despite the wide agreement in favour of companies disclosing more information to their employees, the extent and mechanisms of such a policy are still the subject of angry debate.

However, with the prospect of statutory regulations on disclosure in view, many companies are carrying out wide-ranging reappraisals of their existing communications machinery as a matter of priority. These voluntary attempts to produce a socially acceptable spread of company knowledge have already produced clear evidence that employers hold widely differing views about the sort of information that should be passed on, who should pass it on and even who should receive it. And a study of existing practices recently completed by the British Institute of Management, in an attempt to find out how executives are likely to be affected by pending legislation, reveals a vast spectrum of attitudes and interpretation among United Kingdom companies.

The study discovered, for example, that while more than 50 per cent of public companies believed in giving their middle managers more information than they gave to shareholders, a surprising 13 per cent actually disclosed less to this group. At the same time some 25

per cent of these companies claimed to give more information to their manual workers than to shareholders.

For a clearer picture of communication to staff in British companies, the BIM survey classified the main types of information under four headings: personnel data, income data, general performance indicators and future plans. The 391 firms covered by the survey were required to give details of their disclosure provisions in each category. Of the 294 participating firms which recognized unions, the study showed that most regularly supplied basic personnel and income data to union representatives, although a quarter of these companies made no systematic disclosure of routine information. About 25 per cent of the sample disclosed general performance indicators and future plans on a regular basis.

The study did find, however, that despite the divergence in the depth of information supplied many firms with unions were fairly consistent in advocating the use of joint consultation bodies for passing on data, rather than dealing directly with union representatives. This was found to be particularly true for "good news" items regarding performance indicators rather than "bad news" items which were often routed to the unions.

The survey shows that information of varying depth was provided regularly to all employees by 56 per cent of the firms, with house of a company or its products, journals, notice boards, written communications to individuals and briefing instruments. Special reports on company performance were issued by 22 per cent of firms and this technique appeared to be growing fast according to the report's author, Mr Robin Smith.

One of the greatest problems seen by companies in operating fuller communications systems was the danger of employees falling to understand or misinterpret the information supplied. About 35 per cent of the companies questioned were already taking definite steps to overcome this by providing training on the main aspects of information handling.

Where this was the case, senior employees in the hierarchy were much more likely to receive this training than shop stewards or works council members; but a quarter of the firms were providing special courses, for example, to help employees interpret financial data, which could attract criticism.

warrant its disclosure only to top executives to more obvious structural problems like the geographical spread of a company or its products, diversity.

However, a severe indictment of executive attitudes is represented in one major problem mentioned by several employers. When they were asked to spell out the difficulties encountered in operating an information policy, the number identifying poor communications from management was three times greater than those identifying bad union communications, the report says.

For example, the report quotes one employer as citing as one of his biggest headaches: "Great reluctance on behalf of senior and line managers to pass information to workers. Bad briefing of middle management by directors." Another boss merely noted, "reactionary tendencies of senior management", and a third respondent pinpointed an "inevitable conflict" between an organizational goal and the personal ones held by managers: "The sensitivity of some top managers to communicating information which could attract criticism."

Richard Allen

Keeping Employees Informed: BIM survey report No 31.

## H P Bulmer Limited

the Hereford based Cider Company is seeking a

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This Director will be solely responsible for the profitable operation of the Cider Division, which is marketing oriented and forms the largest element of the Group, employing some 1,400 people, answerable to Brian Nelson, the Group Managing Director, who will consider each application with the Chairman, Peter Prior, in strict confidence, of course.

Suitably qualified and interested all-rounders should send a concise summary of personal details and attach it to an informative - and please not too long - covering letter.

Write to Brian Nelson, H P Bulmer Limited, Rylands Street, Hereford HR4 0LE.

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At the heart of this organisation are four Secretaries—high-powered administrators on the staff of the Director of Administration but working within the Service Directorates. Each Secretary is a full member of the Directorate's Team making a substantial contribution to our corporate management processes, providing valuable support for the Council's scarce professional

resources and advising the Council on the formulation of policies. The Secretary will also provide support for the Members by the servicing of Committees. Through the Administration Directorate the Secretary will help to hold together the Council's organisation as a whole.

With a forthcoming retirement we need a Technical Services Secretary (£7,842-£8,547) for the Joint Directorates of Engineering & Works and Development Services (Architects, Planning, Redevelopment and Valuation). The main qualifications for this job are an alert mind, an ability to make a positive contribution to top management and a first class record in public administration. If you think you can meet our challenge an application form and further information (including a wider explanation of our management philosophy) is available from the Director of Manpower Services, Town Hall, Erith, Kent, DA8 1TL or telephone 01-303 7777 ext. 430. Closing date 8th March, 1976.

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Please send details of career to date, in confidence, to: A. Fergusson at 41, Pall Mall, London, SW1Y 5JG.

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## WORLDWIDE GRAIN EXPORTING AGENCY wishes to interview for additional openings in its MARKET DEVELOPMENT DIVISION

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The persons we have in mind will preferably have had a university level education and a cosmopolitan outlook while identifying with Canada. Excellent command of spoken and written English is essential. They will be bilingual with Spanish, German, French, Japanese, Arabic, Italian or other internationally useful tongue as the other language. Successful applicants will receive additional on-the-job training towards responsible activities notably devoid of routine. They must be prepared to study and work long hours independently when necessary, and to travel abroad extensively at short notice.

Salary offered will be competitive and will vary with technical qualifications, experience, and linguistic ability. Those interested should submit a resume of qualifications and salary expectations, in strict confidence to P.O. Box 816, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada, not later than February 20, 1976.

## ROEHAMPTON INSTITUTE OF HIGHER EDUCATION

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The Governors of SOUTHLANDS COLLEGE (Methodist Foundation) invite applications for the post of PRINCIPAL which will become vacant upon the retirement of Miss Pauline Callard in August 1977. Particulars of the appointment are available from the Clerk to the Governors, Southlands College, Wimbledon Parkside, London SW19 5NN (Tel. 01-946 2234).

Closing date for applications 18th March, 1976.

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## APPOINTMENTS

VACANT  
ALSO  
ON

PAGE 20

## FINANCIAL CONTROLLER

A large firm of City Solicitors with a number of overseas offices seeks a qualified (probably Chartered) Accountant with proven EDP experience, gained preferably in a professional or commercial environment, to assume the important appointment of Financial Controller.

Reporting to the Executive Partner, the Financial Controller will be directly responsible for managing the accounting and EDP functions of the firm, and will also be expected to advise on and participate in the financial management of the firm both at home and overseas.

This position involves considerable responsibility and challenge, operating in a management capacity in a progressive and pleasant professional environment.

Remuneration will be negotiated according to age and experience, plus fringe benefits as may be expected from a large firm.

For further details, please apply in writing to Box 2240 S. The Times, giving details of qualifications and experience.

## Assistant Solicitor

Salary approaching £8,000

An experienced Solicitor is required in the Chief Solicitor's Office to undertake a wide variety of senior legal work. The emphasis will be upon promotion of Parliamentary Bills and Orders and rationalisation of local legislation and transfer of property. The post is based at the Authority's modern headquarters in the centre of Worthing and further particulars can be obtained from the Personnel Officer, Guildbourne House, Worthing, Sussex BN11 1LD. Closing date 27th February, 1976.

**Southern Water Authority**

NATIONAL VEGETABLE RESEARCH STATION

Wellesbourne, Warwick

## APPOINTMENT OF DIRECTOR

Applications are invited for the post of Director of the Station in succession to Professor D. W. Wright who is shortly to retire. Appointment will be on the grade of Deputy Chief Scientific Officer (Salary scale: £10,100-£11,150 p.a.). A full, non-contributory Superannuation scheme.

The Station is an independent research institute grant-aided by the Agricultural Research Council, and its research programme covers all aspects of the production of vegetable crops. Applicants should be distinguished in a relevant science and have considerable experience of both horticulture and administration to be desirable.

Applications should be sent before 18 April 1976 addressed to the Chairman of the Governing Body. Further particulars and an application form may be obtained from the Secretary of the Station.

## CHIEF EXECUTIVE

(SALARY RANGE £11,180-£13,460)

Glenrothes Development Corporation, one of the Scottish New Towns, seeks a successor to the pre Chief Executive, to control the organisation and further development of both housing and industry within the New Town. The person appointed require diplomacy and enthusiasm as well as administrative and technical skills to succeed in this exciting and challenging position.

Salary will be within the scale £11,180-£13,460.

The post is superannuable. A Car Loan Scheme a Free Life Assurance Scheme are in operation. Removal expenses will be paid.

Applications, with the names of three referees to be submitted to the Chairman, Glenrothes Development Corporation, Glenrothes, Fife, not later Friday, 5 March, 1976, and endorsed "Chief Executive". There is no prescribed form of application.

Re-advertisement

Greater London Arts Association

## Appointment of Director

Salary negotiable, but expected to be between £7,500 and £10,000.

Further particulars may be obtained by writing, giving ref. RA2/T, to:

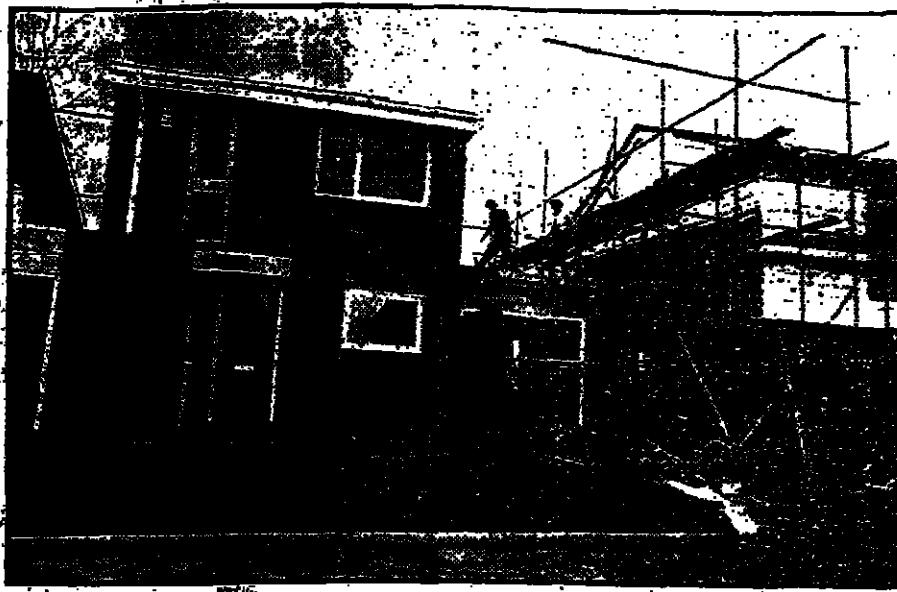
The Correspondent,  
Greater London Arts Association  
25/26 Tottenham Place,  
London WC1H 9SF

Closing date for all applications  
27 February 1976.



## New Homes

## Movement at the lower end of new home market



New homes: a builder's market?

Things are at last stirring on the building sites up and down the country. The movement varies from place to place, but it has come too late to save some builders of new homes, and people do not agree how long it will last—but movement there is.

First, more homes are being started and finished than at this time last year. Secondly, there are people taking trips around the sites to see what is on offer, and more and more ago builders were behind them are probably many more sitting at home and wondering whether now is the right time to buy a new house or flat.

The builder and the prospective buyer are at the moment engaged in a delicate cat and mouse game, but it is no longer quite clear who is chasing who. The action seems to be taking place at the lower end of the new home market, say in the area of the two or three-bedroomed, terraced or semi-detached house.

It is at this level that there has been recent movement, because this is the kind of house that the first-time buyer—the darling of the Government and, officially at least, of the building societies—can afford. Similarly, since demand for this kind of property is usually resilient, owners of second-hand homes contemplating a move into new property can hope to sell what they want.

Owners of bigger, more expensive properties, on the other hand, are sitting tighter. They are operating in a far choosier market, and know how hard it will be to sell at the kind of price they need in order to move up another peg.

Back with our cat and mouse, however, it seemed to me that a year ago that the buyer—the mouse—could for once wipe the floor with the cat—the builder. A buyer with money in his or her pocket is rarely at a disadvantage, but a year or more ago builders were offering fitted carpets and furniture, as well as undying thanks to prospective customers.

It will be many a long day before the cat turns around again and bears down on the mouse, but there does seem to be a hint of change in the air.

If I am right, then it is probably to do with the present imbalance between the cost of building new homes and the price at which they are being sold. Building costs have gone up by about half over the past two years or so, while the price of new homes has gone up by around a quarter. Furthermore, there are new materials increases on the way, as well as a construction workers' pay settlement later this year.

New homes, despite the increase in price, are therefore, quite a bargain in real terms, although it is hard to see how their price can continue to lag in this way if the current increase in building activity still far short of what the country needs—is to continue.

The building industry has gone through spectacular ups and downs in the past five years, and there is hardly anybody who has not been caught at one stage or another. Anybody arguing, therefore, that new homes are going to cost more this year than last in real terms does so at his or her peril. It is true, for instance, that the steady one per cent per month increase in prices recorded in 1975 fell away towards the end of the year. There still remain something like 28,000 unsold new homes, nearly a fifth of the number of new starts last year. Nevertheless, while the building industry is warning that it sees the improvement in starts and completions in the first quarter of this year petering out in the second, there are also those who see a return to an increase in price that will be at least as steady and perhaps even sharper than last year's.

One argument is that present prices already reflect the paring to the bone of builders' margins. Although it is still possible to see it, it is still possible to see that the new wave of cost increases are hardly likely to risk absorbing them in the same way as they did last year.

Ross Davies

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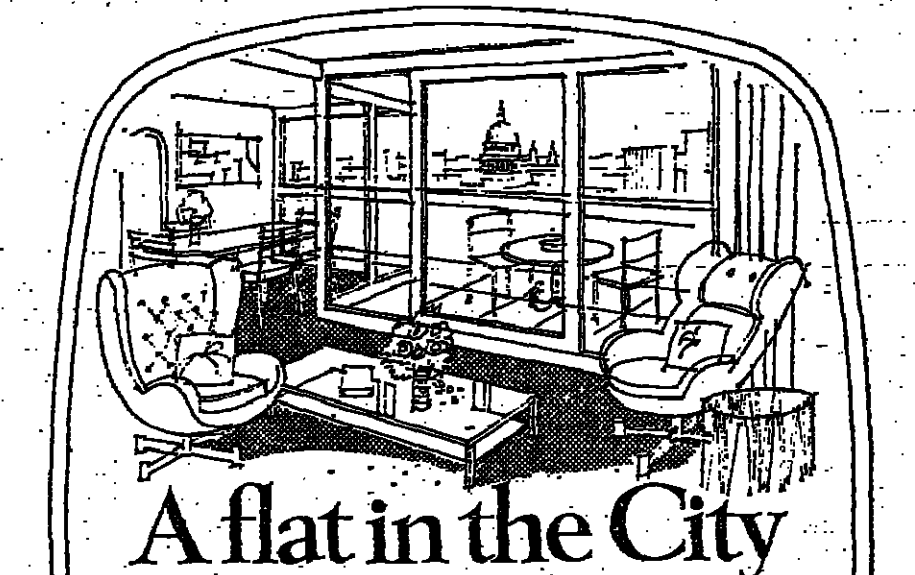
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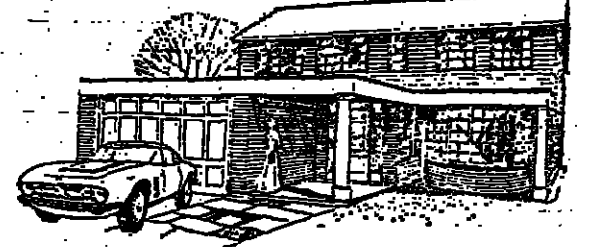
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# IT TOOK US 10 YEARS TO MAKE AN OVERNIGHT SUCCESS OF SILK CUT.

You're probably aware of Silk Cut's growing popularity.

Perhaps you've noticed the way people who didn't dream of smoking a mild cigarette eighteen years ago are now happily smoking ours.

Or how pubs that once refused to give us shelf space now willingly do.

What you may not have noticed is that during the 10 years of Silk Cut's life we made a number of small improvements to the cigarette.

Each aimed at increasing its mildness effects, without any loss of flavour.

We started with our tobacco.

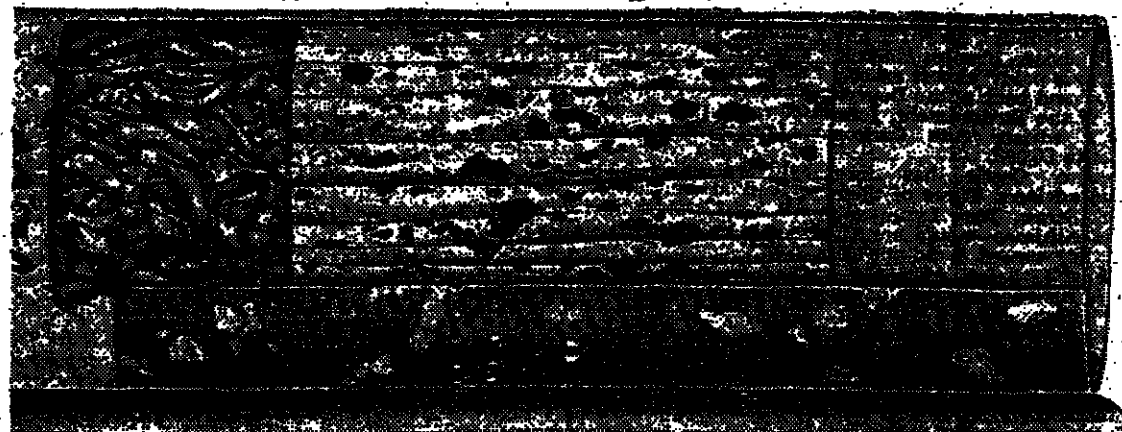
Tobacco blending to combine the flavour of the upper leaves with

the mildness of the lower ones. 1964-1972.

In the year Silk Cut made its debut, our tobacco blend was one of the few around that was both mild and satisfying.

We had an idea, though, that with a little hard work it might be possible to make our cigarette even milder.

So we set about the task of sorting through the different types of tobacco plants.



Charcoal filter. Introduced 1964.

And we experimented with blends made up with leaves taken from the tops and bottoms of plants.

In tobacco plants, the lower leaves, which are

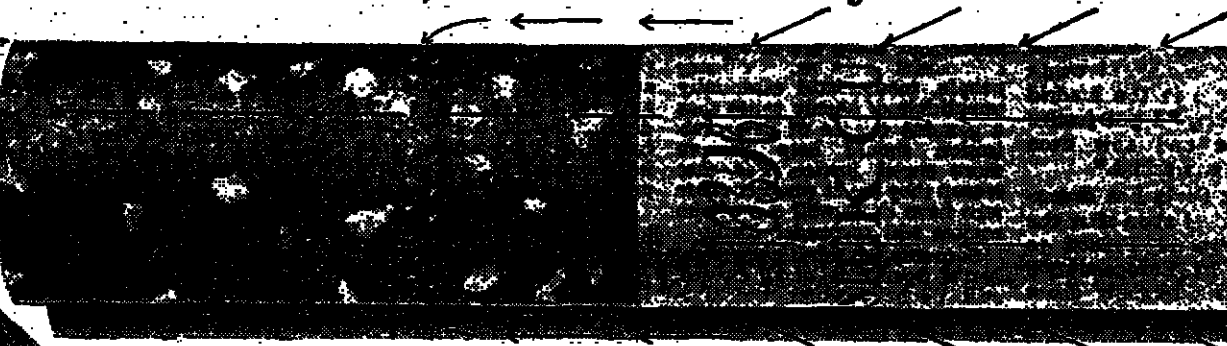
shaded from the sun, produce a milder smoke than the exposed upper ones.)

From the beginning we looked at the filter.

In ordinary cigarettes, filters are made of acetate and paper.

But the Silk Cut filter is a special charcoal filter that produces a smoother smoke than the conventional type.

Again, we wanted to find a way to make the smoke milder still. In fact, we found two ways.



Air ventilation. Introduced 1970.

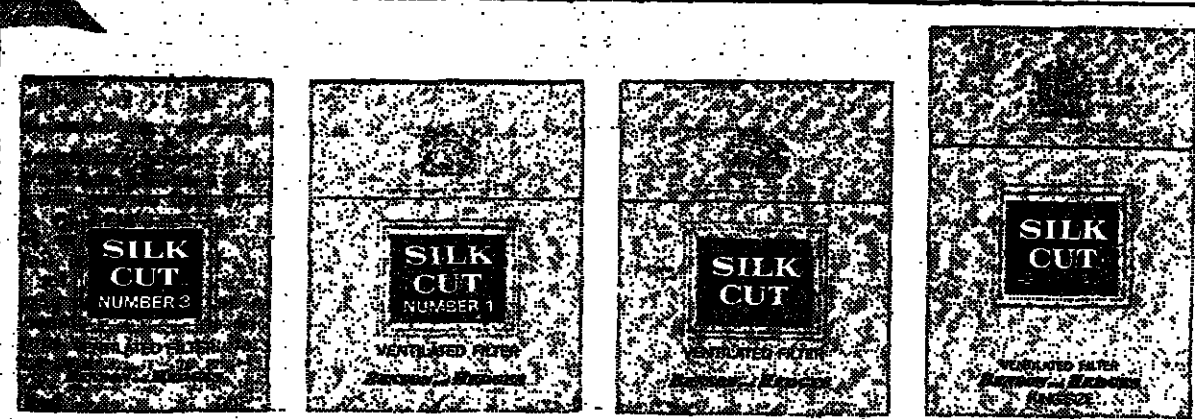
The first was those small holes you see on the picture above.

They are Silk Cut's ventilation system.

When you draw, they allow air to be drawn into the filter to mix with the smoke that has travelled the length of the cigarette.

The second was the higher-porosity cigarette paper we began using last year.

The result of all these innovations was a cigarette



We've improved our range over the years too.

that was a touch milder than previously, and our smokers thought every bit as satisfying too.

Of course, while we were improving our cigarette, we also improved our range.

(There's now a version of the mild cigarette to suit every smoker's pocket.)

And naturally, we'll go on improving both range and cigarette in any way we can.

We've no intention of letting our success get in the way of that.

**Silk Cut. The mild cigarette.**

LOW TAR As defined by H.M. Government  
EVERY PACKET CARRIES A GOVERNMENT HEALTH WARNING



More doom. Deric Glasgow tells me that a shot in Salamanca is closing down the grandiose liquor the whole of existence.





## RY GREENGROCER KNOWS

La Exchequer Commons in debate on has set his general reflation before the im- would not be lation in the tional pro- agreement ase of pay s July, had he next few instalment of unemployment in Sept- foreclosed owed closely Healey fore- employment will look first he measures ver the next nely about

mpared with which would f a general deder safe in respects for lence of pay at 5 per cent above tional defini- yment". A the economy er cent of s normally e the unem- y about 1 and of any ulus to in the form s or out of g into extra ut of gross t at present n. employment t eighteen al reflation gh of these a Exchequer

## NS FLIES A KITE

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ry there was rest in the n apply to ed Kingdom hanging fast us of our continental ed by a Scarman's e, which : busy on the s legislative : first two programme, y interested device that mbitions of Parliament. creary has overment's ght he trod ecision and nmitment.

nd a narrow innovation, the broad m the belief al arrange- id Kingdom ould like to tute and asses for a y by a docu- redefining legislature, y, between ts of the whole, and citizen and

bership, set up in 1973 to recom- appointed by the Whitlam pledge for public lending right, considered the once-and-for-all royalty payment and loan scheme. It was felt that the once-and-for-all royalty payment would not give a continuing recompense for the use of the book over a period of years. The loan scheme was also considered but it was evi- dent that, for as the costs would be immense and also the cooperation of librarians, many of whom still felt the free library system to be under threat in some way, even despite Government pledges, almost impossible to obtain. One great advantage of the books on shelf system was that it would provide a continuing income for writers throughout their life and into retirement.

Any scheme, as your writer pointed out, must be imperfect, but some can be less imperfect than others. The stock scheme is technically feasible and acceptable to librarians. On a rotating sample, one of our librarians might expect to draw the catalogue for checking and once every seven years it also smooths out excessive fluctuations in payments.

The writers' organizations and publishers accepted the scheme, which is now in its third financial year. Some 2,000 authors have received payments.

The administration of the scheme has been carried out by a small

Indeed, if the leaders of the TUC were able to rise completely above the pressures of industrial politics and to speak purely for the interests of trade unionists and all workers as a body, they would say to the Chancellor, let us have a nil norm for pay increases in exchange for a large enough rise in personal tax allowances to raise take-home pay in line with the normal increase in output per man, per hour, 3 per cent. In such circumstances, costs per unit of output and therefore prices would tend to fall, sales and output would rise rapidly and unemployment would fall rapidly.

It is, of course, not at all easy for men, placed as trade union leaders are, to come to terms with and to explain, to those whom they represent, a world in which every penny knocked off each year means higher standards of living and more jobs for everyone. The false option of big pay increases underwritten by Government "reflation"—which merely means sufficient injections of new money to raise prices enough to cancel out the extra purchasing power of the nominally larger pay packets—is easier to propound on political and trade union platforms.

But there are increasingly encouraging signs that there is widespread recognition of the futility of that approach to unemployment. Trade unionists and others are coming more and more to see—as every green-grocer has always known—that there is only one reliable way to clear all your stock; and that is to charge a market-clearing price. Unemployment, which is disgracefully wasteful and shamefully humiliating in many cases, will decline as fast and as soon as we all forget Keynes and remember the greengrocer.

a different wig in 1970, put most elegantly one of the reasons for thinking that these instruments may be less efficacious than they sound. They are of their nature declaratory, even declaratory, in style. The rights they purport to guarantee are defined with considerable generality. They reflect, as Lord Hailsham then supposed, a relatively unsophisticated state of the law. The declaration that one has a right to life is fine and good, but the place to look for its legal effect is the Fatal Accidents Act of 1846 and other prosaic enactments. "The right to associate becomes the Trade Union Act of 1871. 'Thou shalt love thy neighbour' becomes, among other things, the employer's duty to fence machinery which is dangerous."

It is also a fact that civil rights are most in jeopardy at times of national emergency—witness Northern Ireland. All modern declarations and Bills of Rights make provision for derogation from them at such times, and when they are most needed. This gives point to the emphasis which Mr Jenkins placed on economic stability and the maintenance of public order as preconditions for the effective guarantee of these rights.

When these objections are disposed of and it is shown that a Bill of Rights would indeed have high protective value, the constitutional implications of that fact have to be considered. One implication, which is likely to provoke some inter-party disagreement, is a substantial transfer of legislative initiative from Parliament to the judges. Some, distrustful of our parliamentary system, would welcome that. Others, conscious of the normally conservative complexion of any professionally raised judiciary, would not. Judicial legislation would moreover be the work of men and women who were not accountable to anyone except other judges—and should not be accountable if their independence is to be preserved, while appointments to the bench would necessarily become more overtly political.

Australian Authors Fund Committee appointed by the then Prime Minister, Whitlam, consisting of an independent chairman, a nominee of the Literature Board, representatives of authors, publishers and librarians, together with officers of Treasury and the Attorney-General's department.

For the first few years the scheme has operated on a ministerial decision without legislation. However, on November 11, 1975, legislation to regularise the scheme was listed on the notice paper of the House of Representatives. Legislation provided an administrative framework and left settlement of details of operation as worked out by the Australian Authors Fund and approved by the Prime Minister. The Fraser Government has since indicated its support for the legislation which should go forward in the next few months.

In the present financial year some \$600,000 has been allocated for payment to authors and publishers under Public Lending Right; \$55,000 for the survey to establish eligibility and \$41,000 for administrative costs. As it can be seen, the costs have now been kept quite low for a scheme of this kind.

Yours faithfully,  
RICHARD HALL, Chairman,  
Australian Authors Fund,  
4-6 Bligh House, Bligh Street,  
Sydney.  
February 2.

## Involvement of mercenaries in Southern Africa

From Mr Edward Hay  
Sir, I should like to add to Mr George Maxwell's excellent letter which you published on Tuesday.

I find it sad that the only point of interest for many Englishmen in the Angolan crisis is whether a few mercenaries (English, of course) have the right to go to Angola, and once there, to fight. Nobody appears to protest against British soldiers going out to Muscat to fight the same kind of people, using the same kind of weapons for very much the same reasons.

What is at stake in Southern Africa is far more important than the fate of a few hundred mercenaries. What one would like to see is a British Government doing all in its power to prevent a Communist domination of Mozambique and Angola. For if the Communists have their way, Mozambique in the east, and Angola in the west, with their vital sea ports, will control use of the major trading routes of the western world. And that must constitute a very real threat.

In the short term, the implications for the rest of Southern Africa are grim. Whether it be Zambia or South Africa, Rhodesia or Botswana, black or white country that is, the very tenets of their democracy, great or small though they be, will be threatened with eradication. It is up to the Western World to see that sufficient pressure is put on the Communist block so that the continent of Africa may be free to determine its own existence.

Your obedient servant,  
EDWARD HAY,  
11 Stack House,  
Cundy Street, SW1.  
February 10.

From Colonel G. I. A. D. Draper  
Sir, Your editorial columns of February 10 have rightly drawn attention to some of the less well known features of the Foreign Enlistment Act of 1870, the wide definition given to the expression "foreign state" which appears five times in the relevant sections 4 and 5, of the Act of 1870, embraces (section 30) "...part of any...people, or any...persons exercising or assuming the powers of any government in or over any foreign country...or part of any...people" show that Parliament was going way beyond the technical meanings of "state", "government" and "war". The words used in the Act of 1870 give little support to the view you cite from Archbold's Criminal Pleading that the Act does not extend to enlistment in the government or rebel forces during a civil war in a foreign state at peace with Her Majesty.

In the early stages of the Spanish civil war, 1936-39, I was an experienced journalist writing a series of articles with that cited from Archbold. On January 10, 1937, the Foreign Office issued a warning that the Act of 1870 was applicable, and expressly warned that persons enlisting in the service of the rebel forces in the civil war in Spain would be contravening the Act, in particular, sections 4 and 5. No recognition of belligerency was made by HMG throughout the civil war in Spain. This warning also showed that in the view of HMG there was no doubt that a "war" existed in Spain for the purposes of engaging the penal sections, 4 and 5, of the Act. In other words, unrecognized insurgents

were, in the Act of 1870, assimilated to a "foreign state".

On January 10, 1937, Sir John Simon, then Home Secretary, was asked by the House of Commons by Mr Mander about the application of the Act of 1870 to the departure of General Duff's "Irish Brigade" from British ports, destined for Spain. In his reply Sir John Simon stated: "...the Foreign Secretary was advised not long after the outbreak of the civil war in Spain that it had from the beginning been illegal for any British subject to take service in the parties engaged in that war or for any person to induce others to take such service." (H. C. Debates, vol 319, col 323.)

Admittedly, the present situation in Angola presents features not present in the Spanish civil war. Nevertheless, the substantive penal offence defined in section 4 of the Act of 1870: "...accepts any engagement...in the military...service of any foreign state at war with any foreign state at peace with Her Majesty" is less in that wide definition of "foreign state" in section 30 each time that phrase is used in section 4. Thus, the fact that military service is currently possible in each of the three contending factions in Angola, none of which is recognized as a government or belligerent by HMG, may not be decisive in excluding the Act of 1870 from applying to citizens of the United Kingdom who have offered their military services to any one of the three parties now engaged in armed conflict in Angola.

Perhaps, the words of a distinguished jurist, the late Lord McNair, in the context of the Spanish civil war, may be set out as a guide. "On the whole", he said in a lecture he delivered at Oxford on May 29, 1937, "I do not recommend any one to test by personal experience the view of the law expressed in the words (January 10, 1937) issued by the Foreign Office". Perhaps a like warning issued by HMG at the outset of the Angola conflict might have alerted some of our "soldiers of misfortune" to some of the risks they might incur under the Act of 1870 if belligerency became available. I am, Sir, your obedient servant,  
G. I. A. D. DRAPER,  
15 Southover High Street,  
Lewes, Sussex.  
February 11.

From Mr T. C. Skeffington-Lodge  
Sir, I have until recently had a relative living and working in Angola. As a result of hearing from him and talking to him when he has been over here I think he would contradict almost every statement made by Mr Metcalf in his letter to you about mercenary activities in Africa and elsewhere. Anti-Communist scare-mongering has led to inadequate and ill judged outside support for UNITA and FNLA. Angola is a country where responsible than anything else for the fate of the misled young men from Britain and other countries who have gone there as "recruits". In the case of mercenaries from this country there is a serious risk that Africans both in and out of Angola may incorrectly assume that their activities have the blessing and support of the British people.

The University of Leiden. The economic and social problems of the borderland of Northern Ireland to the difficulties facing the Government in Dublin. Nationalist opinion would see repatriation as an affront to their ideal, and it would therefore worsen relations between sections of the community.

Thirdly, there is no readily identifiable basis on which boundary revision can be justified. A Catholic majority in any given area does not mean a majority in favour of joining the Irish Republic, as the border poll in 1973 clearly showed. It is not clear that in Northern Ireland ideology necessarily follows religion. There is moreover a sense of Ulster identity which leaps the religious-cultural divide and has been eloquently expressed in the past by Craigavon and Joseph Devlin and in our own time by Eddie McAteer, John Taylor and Austin Currie, to take prominent but random examples.

Fourthly, the cessation of any part of the United Kingdom territory, however small, can be used to justify further claims. In the absence of any demand for such changes by a democratic political party in the island of Ireland, it would be seen as a concession to terrorism. All the citizens of Northern Ireland are citizens of the United Kingdom. The Government is pledged to uphold the will of the vast majority so to remain, and the Conservative and Unionist Party will hold it to that repeated undertaking.

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN BIGGS-DAVISON,  
House of Commons,  
February 6.

boats of one sort or another since time immemorial. No one disputes the need for by-laws today to control the rights of various interests in the valley's future recreational value, and there have inevitably been areas of disagreement between fishermen, naturalists and conservationists, and boat users.

However, the form of legislation as presently proposed seems both valueless and arrogant. It will effectively remove from those who live and work in the valley the right to any say in the use and administration in what is, after all, their river. The rules are to be imposed by a remote, centralized and over-proud authority that will make no mistake about it, see the river primarily as a water-duct to feed the pumping stations.

The Bill in its present intolerable form should be rigorously opposed by all those who care about such matters.  
Yours faithfully,  
PETER FORD,  
Anole House,  
High Street,  
Bures St Mary,  
Suffolk.  
February 6.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

I believe the opposite to be the case. The MPLA is undoubtedly widely backed in Angola as a liberation movement offering its people a more hopeful future than they ever had under Portuguese colonial rule. That it is going to run the country is certain and it is encouraging to know that many of its leaders are intelligent humanists with a wide outlook. One must hope that when a new overall administration is formed our own Government will quickly recognize and enter into a formal relationship with it, as various African states have already done in anticipation of its complete control. I do not myself believe that the Soviet Union intends to establish any military base in Angola, though like the Cubans who openly moved in to counteract a largely concealed South African intervention their influence and advice will inevitably make an impression on Angola's new rulers.

If we and the West behave sensibly I believe there is a real prospect of a happy unification of today's warring elements in Angola—as remarkable as that which occurred in Kenya when foreign elements stopped interfering in that strife torn country. I am, Sir, your obedient servant,  
T. C. SKEFFINGTON-LODGE,  
5 Powis Grove,  
Brighton.  
February 11.

From Mr D. R. Harris  
Sir, War is a nasty business. Civil war as in Angola, is usually considered to be even nastier. Mercenaries are volunteers and presumably know the risks of their business. Why then is there such a fuss about the fate of British mercenaries in Angola? Yours faithfully,  
D. R. HARRIS,  
37 Western Way,  
Alverstoke,  
Hampshire.  
February 11.

From Mr D. W. Sanders  
Sir, Should not the organization, training and enlistment of mercenaries be made illegal? Surely, a peaceful world needs respect for the rule of law, not only nationally but transnationally. Yours faithfully,  
D. W. SANDERS,  
7 Rockingham Avenue,  
Harpenden,  
Hertfordshire.  
February 10.

From the Revd S. G. D. Parkinson  
Sir, Small-time crooks have just come under fire from our Prime Minister for selling men to fight other people's wars. Is it not high time that the big-time crooks, trading in weapons of wholesale and indiscriminate destruction, came within his sights? His answer, I trust, would then embarrass, if it did not offend, the enterprise of our national export-drive in armaments. Which enterprise I invite him, or anyone else, to deny is wholly reprehensible. Yours sincerely,  
SIMON PARKINSON,  
St Mary's Vicarage,  
Forbury Junction,  
Walsfield,  
West Yorkshire.  
February 10.

Play-tested toys  
From Mrs Helena Cleverly  
Sir, With fascinated dislike, I read in your columns that in addition to the sensible BSI safety requirements, the Children's Research Unit now employ a team of independent psychologists to issue (or not) a "play-tested" seal of approval for toys.

Are parents considered so to have lost spontaneous instinct or common sense that they can no longer choose a toy without an official stamp? And if this is so, have the unit gone far enough? Should not the children, rather than the toys, be play-tested to make sure that they have the correct sort of likes and dislikes? There would then, presumably, be children who would "fail" the unit's special tests and never reach the shops; such an economy might even offset the cost of what must surely be an expensive piece of solemn foolishness. Yours, etc,  
HELENA CLEVERLY,  
Moat House,  
Brockford, Stowmarket,  
Suffolk.  
February 11.

## Fish farming economics

From Mr David Bartlett  
Sir, In reply to the Chairman of the Highlands and Islands Development Board, Sir Andrew Gächter, on the subject of fish farming, I would like to clear up a few misleading points. Firstly, not all fish are carnivores; the carp is one example of an herbivorous fish which has been eaten and farmed by man for centuries, both in this country and others of a similar climate.

Secondly, cows and other sources of farmed animal protein, eat other foods beside grass—for example fish meal—roughly 40 per cent of which is imported into this country.

Thirdly, the conversion ratios (food in: body weight produced) of fish are far superior to other farmed animals, for example bullocks are at least 6:1.

Fourthly, the percentage of protein in relation to the gross weight of fish is approximately 10 per cent, which compares with a figure approaching 3 per cent for cows.

Fifthly, and perhaps the most important point, the expense entailed by feeding fish, can be dramatically reduced by utilizing sewage effluent as the foodstuff; a principle dating back to antiquity, which is now re-emerging as a valuable and viable process, with the factors of cost availability and source at a premium. I hope these five points may allay some of the doubts that may exist concerning the topic of fish farming. Yours faithfully,  
DAVID BARTLETT,  
Department of Liberal Studies in Science,  
The University,  
Manchester.  
February 10.

## Communist parties in West Europe

From Mr Julian Amery, Conservative MP for Brighton Pavilion  
Sir, Your leading article (February 10) on West Europe's Communists, though very balanced, tends to the conclusion that the Italian, French and Spanish Communist parties may well have undergone a genuine change of heart which could make their participation in government acceptable.

Your argument, however, seems to omit a vital consideration. The danger to the West, as your article throughout implies, is not from Communism as such but from Soviet imperialism, of which orthodox Marx-Leninism is only one of many instruments and in many ways less significant than the Red Army or the KGB.

Hitherto we have been protected against the Soviet danger by the western alliance with which Italy, France and Spain are all, in different ways, closely associated. Could we reasonably expect Communist parties taking part in Italian, French or Spanish governments to support the foreign and defence policies which the alliance requires? If not, and they opted for neutrality, how could we prevent them from later sliding into the Soviet camp by the will of their governments or, as with Finland, aligning their main policies with those of the Soviet Union, because of the pressure of Soviet armed power in the Mediterranean as well as in central Europe? And could the West survive for long even with the Finlandization of the northern shore of the Mediterranean?

It is true that Communist China has shown a determination to resist Soviet imperialism and can even be considered objectively as an ally of the West. But then China has sufficient nuclear power to be independent. The French, Spanish and Italian Communist parties are still very far from adopting the Chinese position. Besides, of the three countries concerned, only France has much real power, despite his reassuring image, few people would be reassured by the prospect of Monsieur Marchais's finger being anywhere near the nuclear trigger. Yours faithfully,  
JULIAN AMERY,  
112 Eaton Square, SW1.

## Liberal Party finances

From Mr Philip Watkins  
Sir, Your contributor, Ronald Butt, is inaccurate when he refers to the financial position of the Liberal Party in his article today (February 12). He says the Rowntree Trust has cut back its annual grant from £25,000 to £1,000. The Trust has not made a grant of £25,000 towards the party's annual running expenses for many years. The Trust recently gave £7,500 in 1974 and £2,500 in 1975.

It is, of course, true that the Trustees made grants of £25,000 towards each of the two General Election Appeals in 1974. Your contributor says this kind of donation will not recur. I have spoken to a Trustee today, and can say that Mr Butt has no authority whatever for his assertion. Apart from its continuing support for the Liberal Party Organization, the Trust provides generous and greatly appreciated help for a wide variety of liberal activities throughout the country.

For preliminary figures I have for the 12 months ended December 1975 it looks as though the Liberal Party has broken even financially, and, perhaps, has made a small surplus. This contrasts with substantial deficits reported by Conservative and Labour Parties, and indicates the fallacious basis on which much of the article was written.

Yours truly,  
PHILIP WATKINS, Treasurer,  
The Liberal Party Organization,  
7 Exchange Court,  
Strand, WC2.

## Book on Rupert Murdoch

From Mr William Carr  
Sir, I would like to add to the criticisms of Simon Regan's book on Rupert Murdoch.

So far as the *News of the World* takeover was concerned no great attempt appears to have been made to research what really happened, or to give a fair presentation of my family's part in the battle. In my view little account was given to the fact that my father (I am Sir William Carr's son; Clive Carr is his nephew, not his son as stated in the book) fought the Maxwell bid through a series of operations similar in gravity to a heart transplant. Everyone who knew him was most impressed by the fortitude with which he tried to do what he then considered to be the best interests of the company and its employees.

Before writing the book Mr Regan did not interview any of my family, and this has inevitably tended to produce an incomplete and unbalanced picture based often on one-sided information.

Yours faithfully,  
WILLIAM CARR,  
Cranderton Manor,  
Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire.

## National Theatre tickets

From Mr E. H. Algar  
Sir, If the new National Theatre facilities are as good as many of the other new theatre buildings in this country, it should be a pleasure to get there ahead of the performance time, unlike so many West End theatres which one delays visiting until the very last moment. The new prices seem reasonable when compared with increased costs in every other sector of the economy. I was reminded just how reasonable they are when I told a Dutch colleague that the London Palladium was charging £10 to £12 for their current variety bill (Sir, Mr MacLaine and two other acts) and heard that the ticket prices in Holland for this same event later this month were to be £6 to £20. Yours faithfully,  
E. H. ALGAR,  
North Heath Cottage,  
North Heath,  
Fulborough, Sussex.







# THE TIMES

## BUSINESS NEWS

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### Board fears 'serious consequences' of NUM plan to stop overtime

that even with an injection of money the colliery's reserves of 2.5 million tons of coal would be exhausted within five years.

Speaking after the executive meeting, Mr Gormley said: "There is no question that it is possible to implement an overtime ban but it will cause bloody chaos. The question is whether it is advisable at this time."

He said that a certain amount of overtime was necessary to keep the industry on an even keel.

Mr Gormley added: "I was surprised by the vote, I must admit. Referring to the recommendation of the union's own engineer that Langwith was viable he said: 'I don't know why we engage people if we don't take their advice'."

Of the executive's decision to call a meeting to discuss the political decision, there seems to be no other reason.

Later in a BBC radio interview Mr Gormley said: "I am browned off and disgusted. I think it is a fiasco."

"In fact, the vice-president, Mick McGahey, said to the committee in his opinion he did not think that we could carry a national overtime ban among the members."

Mr Arthur Scargill, Yorkshire miners' president, said at Barns-

ley that the ban reflected the growing anxiety of the union at the state of the industry, and in particular the amount of coal stocks and the threat of closure of a number of pits in a number of areas.

"This union will never again tolerate a closure programme as there was in the 1960s which destroyed half our industry," he said. "We will defend our members, their jobs and all other interests in every possible way."

A pit which makes 5500,000 a year profit as in the case of Langwith colliery, deserves to have development as proposed by our union. It is a reasonable request and should be adopted."

Some of the left-wing members of the NUM executive fear that the NCB may use the argument of economic unviability to seek the closure of other pits and that the union may be conceding a precedent if it gives in over Langwith.

The NCB says that the colliery has lost £1.8m over the last five years and points out that the 900 men affected by the plan could all be accommodated at nearby "long life" collieries.

The union counters that Langwith is heading for a £500,000 profit. Members who voted for the ban took the view that local job availability was of paramount importance.

### Central banks forced to support franc again

By Melvyn Westlake

Central banks were again forced to come to the rescue yesterday of the existing order of European exchange rate parties.

However, speculative pressure waned a little as currency markets awaited the outcome of the regular six-monthly bilateral meeting between the West German Chancellor and M. Giscard d'Estaing, the French President.

Although monetary questions were not on the official agenda, it was widely assumed the two leaders would give urgent attention to the question of avoiding a break-up of the European joint front, threatened by heavy capital flows out of the franc and into the Deutsche mark.

The Bank of France appears to have been obliged to sell up to \$123m and about DM57m in an attempt to prop up the franc. While the West German Federal Reserve Bank bought about \$36.5m and 80m francs at the Frankfurt "fixing" in an effort to limit the rise in the mark.

Steadfastly suffered in the aftermath of this activity. Its "floating" devaluation rate against ten key currencies (from the June, 1972 base) widened to 30.6 per cent during the early part of the day, its worst level yet.

But it improved water to close unchanged on the day at 30.5 per cent. It also fell 35 points against the dollar, at \$2.0260.

Another factor tending to dampen activity on the exchange yesterday was the closure of the New York market for the celebration of Lincoln's birthday.

French monetary officials appear to be hoping that the

speculative storm will gradually subside when the market recognises the authorities' determination to withstand the pressure.

However, many market operators are now convinced that the French franc's present relationship with the mark will become increasingly unsustainable and that there will be steadily more intensive pressure, in coming months.

Richard Wigg writes in Paris: In spite of central bank intervention, speculation continued yesterday on French markets in favour of the Deutsche mark. It reached 176.50 francs to DM100, against 175.10 francs at the close of the markets on Tuesday.

In the triangular operations on Tuesday between the Bank of France, the West German Federal Reserve Bank and the New York Federal Reserve Bank a massive intervention equivalent to between \$500m and \$700m was mobilised, it was estimated.

While the French government invokes the good functioning of last November's Rambouillet agreement under which concerted steps were to be taken by the central banks to limit fluctuations between European "snake" currencies, the dollar, and the yen, French financial and business circles obviously remained sceptical.

The French President declared when he met Chancellor Schmidt for one of the regular summits outside Nice yesterday that the question of the franc and the mark would not be discussed.

But speculators pursued their operations, evidently holding that the approaching weekend might offer a suitable moment for important decisions, in spite of official denials.

### £152m Poland loan backed

The Export Credits Guarantee Department has agreed to give its backing to a financing package worth up to £152m, the biggest it has ever been involved with.

Loans up to a total of £152m will be made by Lloyds Bank and Bank Handlowy of Poland. The funds will ultimately be used to help finance a PVC manufacturing works at Wloclawek, north-west of War-

saw. It is the biggest loan ever made by Lloyds for an East European borrower.

The contract has been awarded to Petrocarbon Developments, a subsidiary of Burmah Oil.

A further part of the package is a \$100m (nearly £50m) Eurocurrency financing, which is being arranged by a group of banks led by Lloyds Bank International.

### output stabilized five years ago

activity is already under way. The modest rise in output in the fourth quarter is at roughly the same as the normal rate of increase in industry's productive capacity—about 3 to 4 per cent a year. It is not clear, therefore, that it will significantly affect the unemployment total.

A lag between output and employment movements is, usually observed, and if output were now only rapidly to expand it would affect unemployment only in early 1977.

The weakness of demand has affected all manufacturing sectors apart from the chemical industry, which has shown a sharp rise in output recently.

Output in engineering, by far the most important single sector, continues to fall.

Mining and quarrying showed a useful 6 per cent rise in output in the fourth quarter over the third.

Gas, electricity and water production also picked up quite vigorously between the quarters, by 6.6 per cent.

The CSO points out that the use of series which measure deliveries rather than production distorted the measurement

### INDUSTRIAL OUTPUT

The following are the index numbers of industrial production in December, seasonally adjusted, released by the Central Statistical Office yesterday (1970=100):

	All Industries	Total
1973 Q1	109.9	109.9
Q2	109.8	110.0
Q3	110.7	111.5
Q4	109.5	110.5
1974 Q1	104.4	106.6
Q2	107.9	108.4
Q3	103.3	105.7
Q4	104.8	105.7
1975 Q1	104.8	106.1
Q2	100.2	100.4
Q3	100.0	100.1
Q4	101.2	100.7
December 1975	103.0	104.1
January	105.3	107.7
February	105.2	106.9
March	105.6	108.9
April	107.6	104.7
May	99.4	98.4
June	99.7	100.0
July	100.6	100.9
August	98.8	98.9
September	100.5	100.5
October	101.5	101.2
November	101.5	101.1
December	100.6	99.8

of production throughout last year. Provisional evidence suggests there may have been some overstatement in the fourth quarter.

### Algeria-Iraq rift blocks resumption of Opec talks

By Roger Vielvo

Algeria has vetoed a new attempt to reconvene a full ministerial meeting of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries and brought the long-standing wrangle with rival oil producer Iraq into the open.

Iraq had asked for a special meeting to settle the outstanding and tangled question of price differentials, but Algeria has now told the Opec secretariat it will not take part until Iraq makes a 10 cents a barrel reduction in some prices.

The dispute between Algeria and Iraq has been simmering ever since the last meeting of Opec in December was broken up by a terrorist attack on its Vienna headquarters. Ministers have been discussing a formula for establishing the relative value of crude oils produced by the various member countries, but failed to reach a final decision before the siege of their offices was launched.

Differentials are often just a few cents a barrel up or down on the generally agreed Opec prices for crude. But in the case of Iraq, the differential is nearly 20 per cent in 1975, and exporting business those countries with differentials thought to be high have tended to lose business to producers whose crude is a few cents cheaper.

Algeria was one of three countries which declined to attend a special meeting of Opec in Abu Dhabi at the beginning of this month, and according to Opec sources, it may now prove impossible to reconvene a special meeting before the next gathering in May.

At the root of this dispute was Iraq's decision to cut its prices to avert a slump in production. While most of the big producers in the Middle East and North Africa suffered falls in crude oil output of up to nearly 20 per cent in 1975, Iraq actually increased production by 20 per cent.

Algeria has been particularly annoyed since some of the cut-price Iraqi crude has found its way into traditional Algerian markets, such as France.

### Bid approach spurned by Morgan Grampian

By Desmond Quigley

Directors of Morgan Grampian, the publishing group, yesterday spurned a takeover bid from a consortium of investors, including the United States, and a request for discussions over a possible £7.18m takeover bid from a private Dutch company, Communica-Europe.

The Dutch group said the proposed terms of the takeover offer were "unacceptable" and the chief shareholders in Communica, holding about two thirds of the equity, are News International, the vehicle of Mr Rupert Murdoch, Gannett Inc. of the United States, and TASCO, an affiliate of the Brazilian publishing firm Editora de Guss.

Morgan Grampian's shares closed 2p up at 66p yesterday, having risen from 60p since the beginning of the week.

Mr Graham Sherman, Morgan Grampian's chief executive and holder of 20 per cent of the equity, said yesterday that all the board had known about the proposed offer was from a letter which arrived at 5 pm on Wednesday. A board meeting had been held yesterday when it was decided that "we did not wish to enter into discussions on the basis of letters."

He and Mr Max Giffen, another director, between them hold just over 40 per cent of Morgan Grampian's shares. Holders of more than 50 per cent of the shares were against holding discussions with Communica, Mr Sherman said. The proposed offer was derisory, he declared.

Morgan Grampian, which publishes professional and business magazines, made a pre-tax profit of £312,000 in the six months to the end of September on a turnover of £9.7m after carrying a loss of £117,000 from its United States operations.

Last night a spokesman for Morgan Grampian, which is advising Communica, said it seemed "short sighted" that the Morgan Grampian board had refused to discuss the matter, and he disputed Mr Sherman's claim that holders of more than 50 per cent of the equity were against the proposals.

### Rolls-NEB talks progress

Heads of the National Enterprise Board and Rolls-Royce yesterday held further talks over the future of the Government's stake in Rolls-Royce.

The NEB and Rolls-Royce said afterwards that discussions had reached an advanced stage. "Subject to certain clarifications, it is hoped proposals can be submitted to the respective boards in the near future," it was said.

The Rolls-Royce board wants to retain total control over the company, without interference from the NEB, the body which will be in charge of the government's 100 per cent equity in the aero-engine makers.

### How the markets moved

Rises		Falls	
Ayer. Bitum	10p to 182p	Securicor	4p to 60p
Rk of NSW	10p to 63p	Smith & Tidman	2p to 25p
Reading Prop	10p to 146p	Stm Midland	7p to 125p
British Sugar	10p to 38p	Tanjong Tin	3p to 48p
BSL Ltd	5p to 119p	UK Props	1p to 163p
Geveer Tin	5p to 170p	Wellcom	5p to 35p
Indocape	5p to 400p	Witter T	6p to 28p
Allen H & Ross	10p to 450p	Montecatini E	5p to 60p
Prop Inv & Fin	10p to 38p	EP	10p to 35p
De Beers Ind	10p to 53p	Rand Prop Mine	5p to 17p
Nucor	5p to 150p	Sunley E	5p to 140p
Fogarty E	4p to 76p	S & U Stores	1p to 14p
UC Invest	4p to 236p	UC Invest	4p to 22p
MYD (Mangula)	5p to 68p	Union Corp	13p to 35p

Equities had a quieter session. Gifted securities were easier ahead of the trade figures.

STERLING was 35p down at \$2.0260. The "effective devaluation" rate was 30.5 per cent.

Commodities: Rubber's index was at 1219.3 (previous 1217.5).

Reports, pages 21 and 22

### Slater launches plan to merge its unit trusts

By Our Financial Staff

What will be the first of a series of merger proposals for the Slater, Walker Securities group £200m unit trust management side was announced yesterday. The Income and High Income Trust funds are seeking unitholders' approval for a merger into a £10.5m fund.

Mr Brian Banks, managing director of Slater, Walker Trust Management said the group planned to reduce its current complement of 44 separate unit trusts into just 21 by the end of the year.

Nine trusts would remain independent and the rest would be grouped by investment objective. Slater, Walker has bought two large fund managers, in addition to its original division, over the past few years.

The mergers will rationalize the various funds of the National Group of Unit Trusts and the Jessel unit trusts. The plan is to merge the unit trusts with remarkably similar objectives in the promotional and unit holders' point of view.

Mr Banks said yesterday that merging would make it easier for the fund to buy a range of stock more efficiently. Meetings of unit holders will be held next month.

In the case of the income fund may be necessary because of the strict requirement that holders of half the units must attend to make a quorum. Thereafter this rule is relaxed.

### TUC joy, CBI relief at Healey deal

Immediate reaction from the Trades Union Congress to the £220m measures to check unemployment, announced by Mr Healey, Chancellor of the Exchequer, yesterday was extremely favourable.

"We can give an unqualified welcome to the initiatives he is taking in the fields of training, stockbuilding, housing, and modernising and restructuring industry," a statement said.

"Full marks also to the Chancellor and the Employment Secretary for providing in full the job creation and training projects put up by the Manpower Services Commission," it added.

But the Chancellor had resisted demands for full-blooded reflationary moves was largely responsible for businessmen generally giving the new measures a muted welcome.

A spokesman for the Confederation of British Industry said: "These are helpful measures. We may differ on certain details but the measures are generally acceptable."

Mr Healey's announcement had virtually no effect on the stock market, and brokers were generally indifferent.

Since then, the Government has introduced schemes for clothing—with £20m being provided—and ferrous foundries, where the Department of Industry is providing £25m to increase investment in the sector, important to many other sectors of British industry.

The Government is now planning to increase the ferrous foundry aid scheme by about £15m to cover the response by companies which have already taken up the bulk of the original £25m while a further £20m of the £55m is being allocated for new assistance scheme for the non-ferrous foundries.

This is important for engineering too in view of the considerable volume of non-ferrous metals used in it. The scheme is expected to include areas such as aluminium castings.

Finally between £18m and £20m looks like being used to promote a new Section 8 scheme for printing machinery. It was being stressed in Whitehall last night that final decisions on the disbursement of these funds have still to be taken but the prospect of funding for printing machinery is of great interest to national newspapers.

Newspapers are seeking to implement fundamental changes in production techniques by employing a whole range of new technology. It is known that in recent months informal discussions have been taking place between representatives of the newspapers and the Department of Industry about the plans to switch to greater use of computer linked machinery in newspaper production.

The funds could of course also be directed to machinery generally.

Some of the 24,000 workers already benefiting from the scheme would otherwise shortly have ceased to be covered.

The job creation programme, for which the Manpower Services Commission has already received £40m in grants, would have been tapering off by next autumn without yesterday's extra injection of cash. The extra £30m is expected to create some 20,000 to 25,000 more temporary jobs—typically short-term work organized on a local basis or jobs with a social value like helping the elderly.

It is seen as likely to be of particular help to youngsters leaving school next summer.

Of the additional £55m going to the commission for extra training places, some £45m will be for first year apprenticeship training. Grants will be paid to employers taking on extra apprentices.

The rest of the new money will be for second year apprentices still without jobs and for some other training measures like non-craft schemes.

assist manufacturing industry as a whole.

Mr Tony Galliers Pratt, president of the Machine Tool Trades Association, said yesterday: "What we are looking for is a special aid for the machine tool industry. We need a counter-cyclical policy for our customers; a climate of investment policy that would prevent machine tool makers from being suddenly special with a severe downturn in orders followed by a strong upsurge."

Since the last downturn, in 1971-72, the machine tool industry has undergone some major changes in terms of marketing and the range of machines produced, but many companies have had to rely on exports to stay in business.

Many manufacturers have complained that a counter-cyclical scheme will not assist them as they produce machines to individual specifications and cannot stockpile without firm orders. Others have given warnings of the danger of producing machines that, in a technologically advanced and highly competitive industry, may become out of date if left in a stockpile.

### Schemes to aid investment

Two new schemes for stimulating investment by important sectors of British industry are under preparation by the Government. Mr Healey revealed yesterday that a further £55m is to be spent on the country's industrial base.

Although final details have still to be settled, it looks as though some of the funds will be directed towards a special scheme of assistance for the printing machinery industry, with possible benefits to national newspapers. Other funds are to be allocated for a new scheme of assistance for non-ferrous foundries and for topping up existing investment incentive schemes being provided by the Government under Section 8 of the Industry Act.

The sectoral schemes that have been initiated so far have been extremely successful and the Government has been greatly encouraged by the response.

The pattern was set with the assistance scheme for wool textiles with the original £15m of state aid topped up by £3m last month to enable more

### Boost for job training

Major expenditure in four schemes aimed at easing unemployment and boosting job training will be another £30m for the Manpower Services Commission to continue its present job creation programme and a further £55m for the coming six months to create 30,000 to 35,000 additional training places in industry from next August.

The temporary employment subsidy scheme is being given a further six months' life.

### Machine tool stockpile hopes

Herbert, the state-owned machine tool group, could be given the task of putting into operation the machine tool stockpile whose formation is under discussion between the industry and the National Enterprise Board.

Lord Ryder, the NEB chairman, who personally advocated the establishment of stock of machine tools in readiness for the upturn in manufacturing investment, is to discuss with industry leaders how the scheme will be financed. The NEB said last night that it would be pursued "as a matter of urgency."

Herbert, the one-time giant of the British machine tool industry and now being preserved with £25m of state aid, could be used by the NEB as a clearing house for the new stockpile. The aim would be to provide additional work for the country's badly under-utilized machine tool factories in preparation for the upturn in industrial investment.

The proposed stockpile is certain to be seen by the machine tool industry as an ad hoc measure to ease manufacturers' problems over the coming six to eight months before orders for new machinery return to more healthy levels.

What is still needed, the machine tool makers say, is a long-term scheme designed to

### Construction disappointed

Construction organizations were bitterly disappointed by the £55m of help for the industry announced by the Chancellor. At present the total registered jobs in construction is around 200,000 and steadily growing.

A spokesman for the National Federation of Building Trades Employers said the industry was in the midst of its most acute demand and unemployment crisis since the 1930s.

"Any help which is given to ameliorate this, one must be thankful for," he added. "That said, this appears to be a very minor contribution."

Mr Reg Williams, director of the National Federation of Builders' and Plumbers' Merchants, described himself as "disappointed but understanding."

He added: "My only comment would be that anything is better than nothing at all. It is bound to be of some help, but regrettably not very much."

The Federation was, however, aware of the constraints involved. To have done more might well have been inflationary.

Short-term jobs: Handful of seed, page 19

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## Dealers worried by Leyland scheme to reorganize outlets

By Clifford Webb

Proposals for reorganizing Leyland Cars' retail outlets in Britain are causing widespread concern among the company's 3,000 franchise holders.

They include the replacement of the present two-tier distributor-dealer setup by a single-level dealer system selling Austin, Morris and Rover-Triumph cars.

Selected dealers will also be offered additional franchises covering Jaguar, Daimler, MG and Triumph sports cars and/or light commercials, car-derived vans, Land-Rovers and Range Rovers.

Smaller dealers—and particularly those at present holding only one franchise—are worried by the proposals for comprehensive franchises. They believe that these can only put into effect by widespread closures of their type of business to provide remaining dealers with the much larger annual throughput of new cars, which will be necessary to justify the increased capital investment required.

But Mr Keith Hopkins, Leyland Cars' director of sales and marketing, has described these fears as "understandable but completely groundless".

"There is ample scope for the large group, the family-owned concern and the small

man. Clearly there will be some terminations in the long term but anybody who performs well, even in a small way, has a future with Leyland Cars. We are not proceeding on the basis of a doctrinaire blueprint. We are ready to negotiate and talk with all our dealers."

He was determined not to present the competition—and I just don't mean the importers—with additional dealers. "If a dealer only sells 50 cars and sells them in the right place I am not going to take away his franchise. That would be giving the competition another 50 cars."

Leyland Cars' biggest asset was its dealer network, by far the largest in the country. "We are only now appreciating how much muscle this has given us in the market place. Only a fool would throw that away to do a nice clean job."

Nevertheless it was obvious that the present complicated and wasteful set-up could not continue in its present form. The new proposals include a substantial concession to the larger groups. The rigid insistence that dealers should not handle competitive makes is being relaxed.

The proposals are outlined in a letter to all distributors and dealers by Mr Bernard Bates, director of franchise, development and planning.

## Useful America order for Norton motor cycles

Norton Villiers, the Wolverhampton-based motor cycle plant which is officially in liquidation, has won an order for 7,000 motor cycles from the United States. The plant was put into liquidation seven months ago and the 800 workers have been sitting-in at the factory to try to save their jobs.

The order comes from Mr Joe Berliner, head of the Berliner Corporation, the giant American vehicle dealers. It guarantees a sale of the production output from the Wolverhampton factory for the first year once it restarts manufacturing.

Mr Ronald Titcombe, the Australian oilman who heads a consortium which has put in a bid for the plant, brought the order back to the United Kingdom.

Mr Titcombe and Mr Berliner have agreed to the deal in principle, which gives the 800 workers a tremendous boost. The deal also has a six months' warranty which guarantees the spare parts.

Mr Berliner is visiting the Wolverhampton plant next Thursday to have a look round, while talks are expected to take place concerning the American company's financial involvement in the plant.

## Engineering pay claim unlikely before April

By R. W. Shakespeare

Northern Industrial Correspondent

Union leaders representing some 2,500,000 engineering workers appear to have abandoned any hope of negotiating a new national pay deal with the industry's employers before the existing agreement runs out at the end of April.

Indeed, depending on the way the second stage of the Government's wages strategy emerges, the unions could be in difficulty about launching any new industry-wide pay demands until well into next year.

With the present national pay agreement, covering workers in more than 5,000 firms, due to expire within two months the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions—which negotiates on behalf of all 19 engineering unions—would by now have submitted its new shopping list of demands to the Engineering Employers Federation before entering a round of tough bargaining.

But when the confederation executive met in York yesterday pay was not even on the

agenda. The dilemma facing the unions arises from the present complex system of two-tier wage bargaining and the fact that national wage negotiations have been overtaken by the Government/TUC counter-inflation strategy and all unions have decided to support the 5% pay limit.

The last national wages deal in engineering was concluded in 1974 to the mile pay code came into force. Its effect has been to raise basic rates up and down the industry by £10 a week, with two increases each of £4 in May and November last year and another £2 due this month. But in practice these basic pay increases have had no effect on most workers because they were already earning more than the new minimum. In most companies actual earnings are determined in plant-level negotiations and the process has continued.

The effect of this has been that the vast majority of engineering workers have received the maximum 5% and, under the terms of the Pay Code, are debarrained from having any more

## Humber side jobs to go in shipyard closure

By Peter Hill

Nearly 300 ship repair workers employed on Humber side face redundancy as a result of British United Travelers' decision to close down one of its subsidiary companies.

Humber St Andrews Engineering Co is closing because of the sharp decline in the number of vessels operating from Hull. The closure will make 276 redundant.

The company is one of three ship repair subsidiaries of BUT and was originally scheduled to be nationalized.

It was on the list of companies in the original consultation document published by Mr Benn when Secretary of State for Industry, but was later removed.

The Government decided to change the basis for public ownership qualification to turnover in the financial year to the end of July, 1974. There had been opposition in any event to the inclusion of the BUT ship repair interests, since, it was argued, they could not be considered as commercial ship repairers in the same way as all the other candidates for state ownership.

But although Humber Govett

Aero export record The British aircraft industry exported a record £20m worth of goods during 1975—a rise of 26 per cent on the previous year—according to figures issued by the Society of British Aerospace Companies.

Spreckley rescue Courtney, Pope (Holdings) has acquired the business of the specialist contracting group Spreckley Sage from the receiver.

The company said yesterday that it had offered to reemploy the 500 employees in Haringey, London, made redundant earlier this month.

Cigarette slump First official confirmation that higher prices and health risk warnings have forced down cigarette sales is contained in figures issued by the Tobacco Advisory Committee yesterday.

These show that cigarette sales fell by 3 per cent in volume last year compared with 1974—from 137,000 million to 132,600 million.

£15m opencast order Taylor Woodrow Construction has been awarded a contract worth more than £15m by the National Coal Board opencast executive at Treacry opencast coal site, Pantywan, Dowlais, in mid-Glamorgan.

It includes the extraction of about a million tons of coal.

Watch on 'lump' A new board has been set up to advise the Secretary of State for the Environment on the effect of government measures designed to tackle the abuses of the "lump" in building.

Sir William Harris, a consulting engineer and former director-general of Highways at the department, will chair the board.

## Innocenti union leaders outline rescue plan

From John Earle

Rome, Feb 12

The factory works council of the Innocenti plant in Milan today heard trade union leaders outline a plan by Signor Antonio Donat Cattin, the Italian Industry Minister, to rescue the former subsidiary of British Leyland, put into liquidation in November.

It envisages the establishment of a company between the Italian-Austrian industrialist, Signor Alessandro de Tommaso, the state finance corporation GEPI and (with a minority shareholding) British Leyland.

This would involve assembly of 40,000 units for three years, during which the plant would revert to production of motor cycles and light vans.

Details of the agreement have however still to be worked out between the three prospective owners, but it is hoped this can be done by next week.

The 4,500 workers have been staging a sit-in since late November. A successful rescue operation would help defuse a potentially explosive situation.

## DataSTREAM rents to go up sharply in restructure plan

By Our Financial Staff

Leading stockbroker Hoare & Co. Govett are to move a further stage down the road towards the ultimate divestment of DataSTREAM, its computerized financial services operation.

With the consent of the Stock Exchange, the group will shortly reformat itself into two companies. The existing parent company, Hoare & Co. Govett is to be liquidated and replaced by a new company, Hoare Govett, which, as a limited corporate member of the Stock Exchange, will take over the firm's entire stockbroking business, including the investment research department and the Hongkong and moneybroking subsidiaries.

The DataSTREAM subsidiaries, responsible for the time-sharing system and for the associated statistical, valuation and econometric printed services, will be transferred to a new holding company, DataSTREAM.

As a result rental charges will go up appreciably to account for the fact that several years ago the firm's income was coming through the commission generated in the broking business.

Once the new structure comes into existence, the emphasis will have to be changed, with terminal rental providing the bulk of income.

But although Hoare Govett

and DataSTREAM will initially remain in common ownership, plans are being formulated for the present owners to divest themselves of control of DataSTREAM.

One of the main requirements of the new structure and the proposed sale of control of DataSTREAM will be a readjustment in the way in which DataSTREAM is financed.

Although DataSTREAM has been charging rental for its computer terminals, its income has come through the commission generated in the broking business.

Once the new structure comes into existence, the emphasis will have to be changed, with terminal rental providing the bulk of income.

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But although Hoare Govett

## EEC opens talks on Lisbon trade pact

From Michael Horisby

Brussels, Feb 12

After some embarrassing delays the EEC will open negotiations with Portugal tomorrow on a politically important new trade agreement.

Together with the £90m of emergency financial aid pledged last year, the proposed accord is intended to stimulate the Community's much-proclaimed determination to help Lisbon along the road to "pluralistic democracy".

The negotiations were supposed to have started before the end of last year, but were delayed largely owing to the reluctance of Britain, France and West Germany to grant

concessions proposed by the European Commission. It was only last month that EEC negotiators were finally able to agree on the Commission's negotiating mandate.

This offers the Portuguese higher export ceilings for their textiles and better access for wine and horticultural products to the industrial and technological cooperation and the extension of social security benefits to Portuguese migrant workers.

In addition the Community is committed to discuss long-term financial aid, the amount, duration and terms of which are to be determined during the course of negotiation.

## January steel output down 13 pc on year

By Our Industrial Correspondent

Output last month by private steel producers in the United Kingdom declined by more than 13 per cent compared with January, 1975.

But official figures issued last night showed that steel consumption in the final three months of last year was running at higher levels than in the previous two quarters. This reinforces the growing feeling that the recession may have reached its lowest point.

According to the latest monthly figures issued jointly by the BSC and the British Independent Steel Producers' Association, production last month averaged 392,300 tonnes a week.

## BSC to pay £900,000 for stockholders

By Peter Hill

Further extension of its interests in the steel stockholding business were disclosed last night by the British Steel Corporation. It announced that it was taking over a Yorkshire-based stockholding company specialising in the general steel

BSC is to pay about £900,000 for Wilson Steel Services, of Cleckheaton, stockholders of plate, light and heavy rolled sections and hot rolled bars. The firm's purchase price will depend on stocks.

The company, which has an annual turnover of about £3m, will become a division of British Steel Service Centres group, formed last year to bring together and strengthen the steel stockholding and reinforcement interests.

## CEGB cuts night rate to regional boards

By Roger Vicley

Energy Correspondent

As the electricity supply boards in England and Wales formally applied to the Price Commission yesterday for an 11 per cent increase in tariffs, hard-pressed users of off-peak electricity got their first glimmer of hope since prices doubled over the past two years.

People who heat their homes by night storage heaters could benefit from a fall in the wholesale cost of night-time electricity. Changes in the whole sale price at which the 12 regional boards buy from the power stations give the industry the opportunity to stem the move away from electricity for home heating.

The wholesale night-time price is set by the Central Electricity Generating Board's bulk supply tariff published yesterday. The night rate is reduced from 0.58p per kWh, but at the same time the peak rate is increased from 1.60p to 1.81p per kWh.

Mr Fred Bonner, deputy chairman of the CEGB, explained that since the wholesale price was fixed last year, fuel costs had risen substantially. Because the fuel adjustment clause, now contained in all domestic bills, added the same amount to the cost of each unit of electricity sold, the main between the effective night rate and the effective peak rate "now understates the true cost position".

However, there is no guarantee that night-rate reductions will be reflected in the charges paid by householders. The off-peak rates offered by the supply boards sometimes come into operation several hours before cheap power is available from the power stations.

Pricing is made even more complex by the fact that the CEGB has an average day-time rate as well as night-time and peak rates, and there has to be a certain amount of averaging. There is no provision in any of the domestic tariffs to pass on the increased cost of burning electricity at peak hours.

This unit would have a 12-metre diameter propeller, coupled mechanically to the electrical generator. Storage options such as water pumping, batteries, and flywheels are being considered.

Test systems based on all these designs are being built as part of Fiat's research and development efforts. The company's managers believe that an important new market is about to open up in unconventional energy systems. In the present depressed state of the car industry generally, they argue, such diversification is well worth exploring in detail.

by Kenneth Owen

## Technology

## Fiat research aims at cutting fuel costs to the motorist

Careful driving techniques can cut petrol consumption—an established fact, but a difficult option in countries such as Italy, where the natural driving style is molto accelerando, so to speak.

At a new research centre near Turin, Fiat is working on developments which, if successful, should make fuel economy less stressful for Italian motorists. And, indeed, they should result in a healthier balance sheet for the car company itself.

Energy research at Fiat has three main elements. First, the obvious aim to develop engines and vehicles which use less fuel. Secondly, as with most manufacturing companies, to study ways of using less energy in the manufacturing process.

Thirdly, to consider energy-related products as a new market area for the company, as part of its general attempt to diversify. This could take Fiat into solar energy, wind power and domestic heating, for example.

In reducing fuel consumption—while at the same time maintaining standards of low exhaust emissions—much can be done even with conventional petrol engines, through a more precise

control of the combustion process. This means electronic control, and in particular the use of an appropriately programmed microprocessor.

Using measurements of air mass flow, engine speed, and exhaust gas condition as inputs to the microprocessor, the system enables the engine operation in effect to be continuously "tuned" to the required emission and fuel consumption.

Another line of research is aimed at matching the engine's performance to the pattern of driving in urban conditions. For much of the time in urban driving the engine is operated inefficiently in terms of fuel consumption.

If a stepless variable transmission were to be used, it would be possible to obtain the best specific fuel consumption whatever the vehicle speed. A closely matched stepped transmission would be almost as good.

The driving would be "automated" to the extent that the driver's intentions, signalled by the accelerator pedal, would be interpreted by a microcomputer. Continuously comparing factors such as vehicle speed and engine speed, the micro-

computer would control engine speed and throttle valve position to give best fuel economy at all times.

Fuel economy and reduced exhaust emissions can both be obtained in so-called stratified charge engines. Here the combustion chamber may be split into two parts, with a fuel-rich mixture used for ignition in one (the "pre-chamber") and a lean mixture for main combustion in the other (the main chamber).

Another type of stratified charge engine uses direct petrol injection in the pre-chamber. Fiat is working on both types, and good operation on extremely lean mixtures (air/fuel ratios up to 35) have been obtained.

Attention to the aerodynamic resistance of a vehicle is also important in reducing fuel consumption, particularly at high speeds. A new wind tunnel at the Turin laboratories can test actual vehicles or full-scale models at speeds up to 120 mph.

The combined effect of these developments, Fiat scientists estimate, is a reduction in fuel consumption in urban driving of 25 to 40 per cent. The cost of electronic control

would be prohibitive today but, they suggest, microprocessor systems could be fitted in production cars by about 1985.

Electric propulsion of vehicles is also being pursued by Fiat, but with a lower priority. Various approaches include studies of different electric propulsion systems; development of prototype electric city-cars; and of electric versions of existing vehicles; and development of hybrid power plants.

All these developments are logical extensions of Fiat's traditional automobile technology. But the search for new market opportunities in unconventional energy systems marks the beginning of a new phase in the company's research.

One system now being investigated combines solar power (thermal panels which are used to heat water) and a diesel-actuated heat pump to provide space heating and cooling inside buildings. The solar collector provides heating directly, with a boost from the heat pump as required, and waste heat is recovered from the diesel exhaust gases to give a further increase in efficiency.

Another project is aimed at converting solar energy into mechanical power, using the principle of the Rankine cycle. This mechanical energy in turn might drive a centrifugal pump, an electrical alternator, or the compressor of a heat pump for ambient air heating and cooling.

Wind-power systems are also under scrutiny. A small-scale wind turbine generator designed for an average output of five to 30 kilowatts (and a peak power of 30 kilowatts) is known to be technically feasible; now its manufacturing economics and operating performance are being examined.

This unit would have a 12-metre diameter propeller, coupled mechanically to the electrical generator. Storage options such as water pumping, batteries, and flywheels are being considered.

Test systems based on all these designs are being built as part of Fiat's research and development efforts. The company's managers believe that an important new market is about to open up in unconventional energy systems. In the present depressed state of the car industry generally, they argue, such diversification is well worth exploring in detail.

As a shipper to whom fractions are critical I should be interested to learn whether underwriting of a mere 10-15 per cent cannot be met. The fuel crisis has now receded but does not seem to be matched

by a diminution of bunkering surcharges, for instance. It seems to me that we are adept at taking advantage of external factors to justify price increases and maintaining them beyond the demand of economic necessity. While the steamship companies are not in the same league as the oil companies in this respect, I should like to be convinced that present freight rate levels are fair and equitable to the hard-pressed exporter.

Yours faithfully, PHILIP ALGAR, The Institute of Petroleum, 61 New Cavendish Street, London W1M 8AR, February 8.

From Mr A. G. Sutton Sir, I find it difficult to understand the supposed benefits of petrol rationing as suggested by Mr Connolly in your issue of 4th February which you published on February 4. It is quite simply not true

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Small firms' worker relations

From Mr E. G. Wood

The question posed by Mr J. W. Dodd (February 4) about the optimum size of firms is not easy to answer though, based on over 20 years' experience of working with many firms both large and small in a variety of industries, I would support the view put forward by Mr J. F. Ellis (February 10) that small firms have better industrial relations.

However, opinions based on experience carry no weight in some circles so let me add that there is considerable evidence from research including such authorities as Professor R. W. Revell. This does not mean that small firms are perfect and, indeed, the Commission on Industrial Relations recommended more training in small firms while confirming that relations were better in small firms than in large organizations.

The figures of 30 years ago, quoted by Mr Ellis, are no longer published in *Trade and Industry* (formerly the *Board of*

*Trade Journal*) but they do appear in the *Business Monitor PA Series* based on the new annual Census of Production. I have started to analyse these figures about three years ago and found that in some industries the net output per head is highest in small and medium sized units whereas in other industries the big units are best.

However, figures can lie. For instance, in the cutlery industry the large units are now made manufacturers using much more capital per employee than the traditional cutlery trades. It is true that, taking industry as a whole, large establishments produce more per head than small units, but this is because many of the small units are in labour intensive industries: to and an answer you must compare the size with the

This led me to study the data for the clothing industry where the product does not vary much with the size of firm. I found that units with less than 200 employees produced virtually the same net output per head as the larger units where

capital expenditure per head was higher. The small units carried lower stock, paid higher wages and, however, in some sectors, fewer shifts, and output per head was higher in the overwear, children's wear) small units more per head.

We started a similar of the engineering and a color diagrams of the ship between net output capital expenditure per head. Unfortunately, we had done this study owing to funds. If and when feels that this kind of is worthwhile, we are delighted to try to an intriguing question pose David.

Yours faithfully, E. G. WOOD, Director, Centre for Innovation in Productivity, Raffles House, 16 Fitzalan Square, Sheffield S1 2BZ, February 10.

Patents: Britain missing o

From Mr N. J. Flower Sir, Britain, cradle modern patent system, to be absent from the European Patent Convention. What a tragedy this! It would arise from the of the Government's primary business manager something like half a d floor of the House of Commons for the necessary of enabling ratification of the European (as opposed Community) Patent Convention.

Until this Bill is promulgated, a professional country cannot hold its own in the world of ready and willing to Europe for client America, Japan and its loss and to the detriment of our invisible figures. Clients once lost Nor can this country's proportion of places in the world of the Patent Office, and our negotiators on the committee and its various parties each have tied behind their back.

Members of the should please note and the all-party early day on this subject which Order Paper, I suggest solicit the backing regular "pairs".

The above member public in business a wise, who are interested Great Britain participate the birth of the Patent Office should write to their MPs and the confidential information necessary for running a successful business.

If the Baltic were closed entirely, then London might well slip away from its present position of being an international shipping centre. The present building was erected nearly 80 years ago and its traditions go back well beyond that. These include the training of the young and unquestioning adherence to its motto "Our Word Our Bond".

Yours faithfully, D. V. NOAKES, Welbeck, Upper Manor Road, Godalming, Surrey GU7 2HZ.

From Lord Orr-Ewing Sir, January is a most governments review and plan their future strategy.

January 1958 millant's chess Treasurers (Peter Thorneycroft Powell and Nigel signed because they necessary to cut public by £50 million balance the Budget. I necessary. While the steamship in 1957/58 of £420 million in 1958.

This month we saw January 8 that a deficit on December £5,744.6 million might be saved by the end of the year there have been no Yours, IAN ORR-EWING, House of Lords, January 26.

No resignation over public expenditure

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Soviet freight competition

From Mr C. Gysin Sir, The consternation among shipping companies at the "unfair" competition from the Soviet merchant fleet may be a little previous. Almost inevitably it is being taken as a challenge to the free market, politically inspired and subsidized, whereas it may be nothing more than commercial competition which could be countered by adjustment of freight rates.

As a shipper to whom fractions are critical I should be interested to learn whether underwriting of a mere 10-15 per cent cannot be met. The fuel crisis has now receded but does not seem to be matched

by a diminution of bunkering surcharges, for instance. It seems to me that we are adept at taking advantage of external factors to justify price increases and maintaining them beyond the demand of economic necessity. While the steamship companies are not in the same league as the oil companies in this respect, I should like to be convinced that present freight rate levels are fair and equitable to the hard-pressed exporter.

Yours faithfully, PHILIP ALGAR, The Institute of Petroleum, 61 New Cavendish Street, London W1M 8AR, February 9.

In defence of the oil companies

From Mr Philip Algar Sir, The letter from Mrs Watts (February 3) confuses further a complex situation that needs to be clarified. I will select a few points only for comment.

1. The production of oil for the present intensive competition will lead to the "total disappearance of the independent site owner". At the end of last year there were some 23,000 sites that were not owned by the oil companies. Will all these go out of business? Will the intensive competition alone be solely responsible for the demise of those who leave the industry? One must point out that all sites face higher costs, through inflation, at a time when demand has slumped. Additional expense must be met by some sites to meet the stricter requirements of new health and safety regulations so it would be curious if some sites did not go out of business for "normal" economic reasons.

2. It must also be mentioned that some of the independents provoked the present situation by price cutting, sometimes through purchases of cheap imports from Rotterdam.

For some time we have been told that 10 or more sites per day have been closing, but this is a gross exaggeration and the actual figure for 1975 is a maximum of four which is in line with the trend of recent years.

4. It is quite simply not true to imply that oil companies have reduced prices, at all company owned sites, to the level of a well-known hypermarket. The industry, faced with enormous capital requirements for the development of future supplies of petrol, cannot afford to see substantial or sustained discounts.

5. In 1975 there was a decline in the number of company owned sites and just over a quarter of sites are now owned by the independents.

6. Mrs Watts implies that the oil companies have no concept of service to the public and that this is a monopoly of the "little man". I believe that the oil industry has a very proud record for service to the public and would merely point to the national availability of secure supplies of reliable products at prices that reflect massive capital investment to ensure economies of scale.

Yours faithfully, PHILIP ALGAR, The Institute of Petroleum,



## THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

## Why ICI might need more capital

an ICI study market one? et con- paps do- cate a fund- ably be- arily so- pany's- ved to

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Manila capital- blem in- national- year—4in- Olympic- to it in- August, 1972, was- con- sidered to be one of the more- difficult jobs then available to- a Whitehall civil servant, and- before that he was secretary of- a committee set up to smooth- the way for the Dunlop-Pirelli- merger.

In April Cassels says good- bye to retiring MSC chairman- Sir Denis Barnes and hello to- Delta Metal's Richard O'Brien.

The MSC was established two- years ago to assume the Depart- ment of Employment's public- employment and training ser- vices through the Employment- and Training Services Agencies.

It is quite a job to make- these services better known to- the public. Many people con- fuse MSC with Manpower Lim- ited, a commercially run service- group.

Switchboard operators at- either concern are so used to-

memploy- day gave- ssels, who- the first- over Ser-

MSC's Cassels.



Mr. Rowland Wright, chairman of ICI: fourth quarter results next week.

mechanical engineering industry looking, in its latest short-term trends report, for no upturn in home orders until next winter, and for new orders generally to "bump along the bottom" of the cyclical trough for a while, companies will almost certainly have to cut production back this year or risk running out of work altogether.

How much damage this will do to market ratings is another matter, since most investors in the sector have been going in with an eye to the joys in store in 1977. Come spring and reports of poor performance in the second half of last year, enthusiasm could wane; and almost certainly will wane unless there is more cheerful news than we have seen so far over order intake. And this is particularly the case in that while manufacturing industry gener- ally, on the CBI's argument, may still be in for liquidity problems on a revival of busi- ness, those of the engineers— with their profits and cash flows debilitated by running below capacity—will be worse off.

market. The Calypso and Big K operations are being integrated into a network of discount DIY centres covering the West Mid- lands, North West and South- Western regions, areas where LCP has marketing experience, albeit in a different form, through its British Leyland and Rolls-Royce car franchises.

For the current 1975-76, financial year LCP forecasts pro- fit of not less than £2m, fairly creditable given the continuing high interest burden. As far as LCP's property in- vestments are concerned, addi- tions to the industrial estate at Pen- nett, and at Stourbridge still cost around £1m a year against a current rent roll of £850,000.

LCP has been able to promise full year's dividends of 5p gross per share, a 36 per cent im- provement on 1975's pay-out. On the rights issue that implies an attractive 10.5 per cent yield of 9.5p, and an eight per cent of 8.5p, both of which are well covered on the fore- cast earnings for 1975-76.

Engineering  
Cautionary tale from Serck

Confirmation of the engineering industry's problems with order intake came yesterday at the annual general meeting of Serck, whose shareholders were told that not merely was order intake running at between 10 per cent and 15 per cent below the current level of deliveries, but also there was no sign of the forecast improve- ment in demand "which will be needed for a prosperous 1977".

Now Serck, which manufac- tures valves and control equip- ment for the process plant in- dustry, tends to be late in line when new orders are placed; so its experience cannot be taken as representative of an industry in which individual companies in any case defy generalization. Nevertheless, the experience of an order in- take at the below average levels of activity has been suf- ficiently widely shared to sug- gest that the recent indus- trial confidence may be premature.

The end January issue of *Trade and Industry* showed the index figure for orders on hand at end-October was down to 104 following a 15-month decline from 137; the index figures for new orders received had slipped over the same period from 110 to 89, decisions to cut order books rather than produc- tion had come back by only seven points to 106.

With the little Noddy for the

Electra Inv Tst  
Creating a new vehicle

Given that Electra Investment Trust's threatened loss of trust status for tax purposes called for a solution by early this year, the main question taxing the two parent companies, Globe and Cable Investment trusts, has been how best to tackle the problem of obtaining the listing for the shares now required by the Inland Revenue. Divestment of Electra by way of a scrip or rights issue to Globe and Cable shareholders was, apparently, the most favoured solution but ruled out by tax considerations. Hence today's offer for sale of just over a quarter of the equity—12.5m shares at 87p.

Those who recall the burning of fingers that went with the investment trust new issue stampede of 1972 might understand- ably be sceptical. But the point about Electra is that it is not a new trust being scrip- scribed at par but an estab- lished trust in which the parent companies are offering shares at a 27½ per cent discount to the late January net asset value of 120p a share.

That, in turn, does raise the question of whether or not the proposals are in the best in- terests of existing Globe and Cable shareholders, who might conceivably wonder whether it would not be better simply to absorb the Electra investments rather than have to hold them through a quoted vehicle car- ried at an investment trust dis- count. The fact that the Elec- tra investments are already taken in at a 20 per cent dis- count does not negate such a consideration, but the counter- argument—leaving aside the technical difficulties of such an arrangement—is that Electra has a raison d'être in its own right.

That, in essence, is to exploit (with the advice of Develop- ment Capital Ltd) the unlisted company market mature rather than greenfield opera- tions—with the ultimate aim that such investments should account for up to 50 per cent of the portfolio. This could well make for below average asset growth in the early stages, but the group emphasizes that stress will be placed on ensur- ing immediate income returns.

With Electra shares them- selves yielding a prospective 6.4 per cent at the offer price, well above both Globe and Cable—the issue certainly has income merits. But the capital growth potential looks to be very much medium to longer- term.

While there is nothing drama- tic about the Chancellor's latest tranche of public funds for promoting investment—and no-one last night had any idea of what the figure will be for machine tool stockpiling— they reflect the Treasury's determination that state aid must be provided on a selec- tive basis.

The further £55m being deployed under section 8 of the Industry Act is unlikely to have any immediate impact on the short-term problem of accelerating the levels of capital spending.

It is intended to use these funds over the next few years for structural improvements in the printing machinery and non-ferrous foundries indus- tries. Though some of the money will add to that for an already announced scheme for improving the ferrous foundries industry.

Selective section 8 schemes of aid are steadily being developed across a range of

industries, in line with promises given under the Government's new strategy for identifying specific sectors of manufacturing and putting taxpayer monies to promote reforms.

The prototype of course, has been that for wool textiles, where since 1973 some £18m has been deployed in loans, generating almost £83m of new investment, one quarter of which is said to be industrial building.

Such schemes are not in themselves likely to make an immediate impact on levels of company expenditure, but, each time the Chancellor comes forward with selective help for projects based on an industry-wide concept of planning for the future, the total help avail- able mounts up. They are backed up, of course, by the selective financial assistance available under section 7 to companies on an individual basis.

All this is good for the future, planning now for better times. But the Treasury has more pressing anxieties, and, in spite of the Chancellor's latest tranche, resisted the temptation to give more funds for the quite separate scheme for accelera-

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## Short-term jobs and training to ease manpower problems

The Chancellor of the Exchequer's modest measures for stimulating industrial investment and alleviating some of the rise in unemployment are discussed in the light of the Government's strategy of preparing the ground for industrial revival

danger that we will be forced to limit the scheme again to development areas. Any worth- while scheme anywhere in the country can be eligible for a grant.

The extra money will create another 20,000 to 25,000 extra temporary jobs, most of them lasting about six months, but some for up to a year. The summer-leaving problem this summer could be less serious because many who stayed on last year embarked on a two- year "A" level course. Many more youngsters will opt to stay on this year rather than risk joining the unemployment queue.

Last summer 200,000 of the 500,000 school-leavers got what are loosely termed "jobs with prospects". About 300,000 took the degree route, and the com- mission with the tax of placing as many as possible of the 40,000 permanently unemployed school-leavers. At this moment, 9,000 of them are drawing their unemployment benefit.

The Government is aware of the advantage of putting people in jobs, even subsidized and temporary jobs. It means they get an income tax return and, like last year, the state benefits. Mr. Healey said yester- day the net effect on the

public sector borrowing require- ment of the extra £30m would be small. In fact, there could even be an exchequer "profit". Under the programme, the wage costs for projects pro- viding short-term work of social value are met. Projects are organized by any local group anxious to help reduce unemployment and do a socially worthwhile job at the same time. Jobs must be labour intensive, preferably offering training or further education opportunities. Unfortunately, the latter qualification is not met often enough.

Mr. Healey's proposals to provide 30,000 to 35,000 extra training places in industry at a cost of £55m fall exactly in line with what the commission was requesting. The danger is that employers will hold back, hoping that, like last year, the grant will in stages become more generous.

The commission was anxious to point out yesterday that the £55m is more generous than last year's £40m, but it is a number of increments, and almost certainly will not be increased. So employers should not hang on, said an official.

The Government has been cautious to start with £10m of the £55m for continuing the training of apprentices and

others who lose their jobs because employers cannot afford to keep them on, despite the generous grants, or because they go bankrupt. It will enable the commission to induce other firms to take on the trainees and continue their education.

Ministers are also considering how to make the best use of further education during the recession, if only to keep un- employed school-leavers occu- pied. But they also see the advantage of having a reserve of qualified young people ready and waiting for the anticipated upturn in the economy.

Sir Denis Barnes, chairman of the commission, said last night: "Our measures are working because people are realizing that our approach is the right one, both for them- selves and for the country. The commission has always been determined to ensure that as many people as possible acquire the skills that will enable them to take full advan- tage of economic recovery when it comes. That will ensure that the nation has a pool of skilled people ready to produce the goods. And, of course, people with skills are much less likely to be unemployed."

He went on: "Since the war Britain's economy has dipped

and risen in roughly four year cycles. In the past when the economy has expanded the nation has lacked the industrial skills to increase production, on which prosperity depends. That must be avoided in future."

Although the commission got virtually all it wanted it failed to entice £5m from the Chan- cellor for the Employment Service Agency, which last year placed 135,000 jobseekers, including 52,000 disabled people.

It wanted to speed up the modernization of the employ- ment service, but Mr. Healey clearly was not convinced. The commission has ambitious ideas for reinforcing their front line staff in employment offices, accelerating the much-vaunted Jobcentre programme, and nearly doubling the employ- ment transfer scheme, which gives grants for people who move in their search for jobs.

In all the commission had asked the Government for £90m, and it is delighted that it has got £85m. The Government dare do nothing but encourage it, the TUC is firmly for it, and the CBI can see advantages to its members flowing from it. The TUC said last night: "Full marks to the Chancellor and the Employment Secretary (Mr. Foot) for providing in full and speedily the cash to finance the job creation and training projects put up by the Man- power Services Commission."

"Today's package is evidence that the Government is tackling the nation's unemployment problem with the seriousness it warrants. Now for a Budget which will reinforce and extend the interim action."

With so much support all round, the commission under- standably feels optimistic about its prospects of getting yet more money if its new allocation goes as speedily as the rest has done.

Christopher Thomas  
Labour staff

## A handful of seed to yield a harvest

ing capital investment, an- nounced in the last Budget and reinforced last month with £30m on top of the original £90m worth of cheap loans and interest relief.

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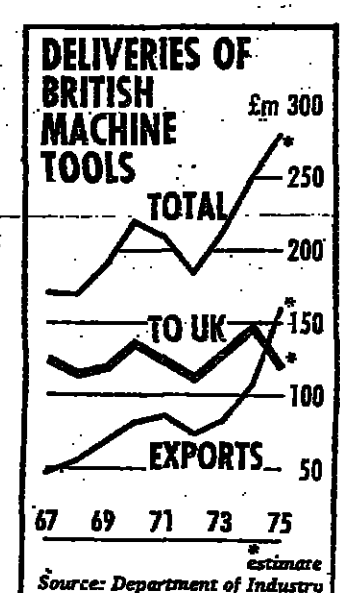
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Source: Department of Industry

ing the country's industrial base. It is a case for the moment of offering inducements as fast as the traffic will bear them in the conviction that the recession has touched industry but it is also up to industrialists themselves to do their bit with- out further state carrots, and by higher spending breed more confidence among each other.

Next week sees the Govern- ment's White Paper on public expenditure, which will show the kind of resources being de- ployed behind the state indus- tries, whose influence on man- ufacturing activity and order books for capital items is enor- mous. All too expectations are that industry remains the top priority when expenditure is being contained in other areas of resource allocation.

The Chancellor seems set on the right course and industrial- ists should now back him with a



## Appointments Vacant also on page 10

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The successful applicant will be given the equivalent of partnership status and will work closely with the Senior Partner of the firm.

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### UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS

#### University of Glasgow DEPARTMENT OF BOTANY LECTURESHIP IN BIOCHEMISTRY OR BIOPHYSICS

Applications are invited for a Lectureship in this department. The successful applicant will be required to teach and supervise students in the field of biochemistry or biophysics. The salary will be in the range of £2,400-£2,800 per annum, depending on experience. The successful candidate will be given the opportunity to work in a dynamic and expanding organization. For full details and application form, please write to: DEPARTMENT OF BOTANY, University of Glasgow, Glasgow, Scotland. Closing date: 15th March 1976.

#### University of Dundee LECTURESHIP IN PHYSIOLOGY

Applications are invited for a Lectureship in this department. The successful applicant will be required to teach and supervise students in the field of physiology. The salary will be in the range of £2,400-£2,800 per annum, depending on experience. The successful candidate will be given the opportunity to work in a dynamic and expanding organization. For full details and application form, please write to: DEPARTMENT OF PHYSIOLOGY, University of Dundee, Dundee, Scotland. Closing date: 15th March 1976.

#### University of London INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION TWO LECTURERS IN EDUCATION

Applications are invited for two Lectureships in this department. The successful applicants will be required to teach and supervise students in the field of education. The salary will be in the range of £2,400-£2,800 per annum, depending on experience. The successful candidates will be given the opportunity to work in a dynamic and expanding organization. For full details and application form, please write to: INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION, University of London, London, England. Closing date: 15th March 1976.

#### University of London UNIVERSITY ENTRANCE EXAMINATIONS CHIEF EXAMINERS

The Council invites applications for the post of Chief Examiner in the University Entrance Examinations. The successful candidate will be responsible for the management of the examinations and will be required to supervise the work of the examiners. The salary will be in the range of £2,400-£2,800 per annum, depending on experience. The successful candidate will be given the opportunity to work in a dynamic and expanding organization. For full details and application form, please write to: UNIVERSITY ENTRANCE EXAMINATIONS, University of London, London, England. Closing date: 15th March 1976.

#### University of Edinburgh DEPARTMENT OF CLASSICAL ARCHAEOLOGY LECTURESHIP

Applications are invited for a Lectureship in this department. The successful applicant will be required to teach and supervise students in the field of classical archaeology. The salary will be in the range of £2,400-£2,800 per annum, depending on experience. The successful candidate will be given the opportunity to work in a dynamic and expanding organization. For full details and application form, please write to: DEPARTMENT OF CLASSICAL ARCHAEOLOGY, University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh, Scotland. Closing date: 15th March 1976.

#### University of Bristol DEPARTMENT OF BIOCHEMISTRY TWO LECTURESHIPS

Applications are invited for two Lectureships in this department. The successful applicants will be required to teach and supervise students in the field of biochemistry. The salary will be in the range of £2,400-£2,800 per annum, depending on experience. The successful candidates will be given the opportunity to work in a dynamic and expanding organization. For full details and application form, please write to: DEPARTMENT OF BIOCHEMISTRY, University of Bristol, Bristol, England. Closing date: 15th March 1976.

#### University of Reading LECTURESHIP IN STATISTICS

Applications are invited for a Lectureship in this department. The successful applicant will be required to teach and supervise students in the field of statistics. The salary will be in the range of £2,400-£2,800 per annum, depending on experience. The successful candidate will be given the opportunity to work in a dynamic and expanding organization. For full details and application form, please write to: DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS, University of Reading, Reading, England. Closing date: 15th March 1976.

#### University of Leicester DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH LOCAL HISTORY LECTURER

Applications are invited for a Lectureship in this department. The successful applicant will be required to teach and supervise students in the field of English local history. The salary will be in the range of £2,400-£2,800 per annum, depending on experience. The successful candidate will be given the opportunity to work in a dynamic and expanding organization. For full details and application form, please write to: DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH LOCAL HISTORY, University of Leicester, Leicester, England. Closing date: 15th March 1976.

#### University of Durham TEMPORARY LECTURESHIP IN ANTHROPOLOGY

Applications are invited for a temporary Lectureship in this department. The successful applicant will be required to teach and supervise students in the field of anthropology. The salary will be in the range of £2,400-£2,800 per annum, depending on experience. The successful candidate will be given the opportunity to work in a dynamic and expanding organization. For full details and application form, please write to: DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY, University of Durham, Durham, England. Closing date: 15th March 1976.

### UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS

#### The Queen's University of Belfast SENIOR LECTURER OR LECTURER IN PSYCHIATRY

Applications are invited for a Senior Lectureship or Lectureship in this department. The successful applicant will be required to teach and supervise students in the field of psychiatry. The salary will be in the range of £2,400-£2,800 per annum, depending on experience. The successful candidate will be given the opportunity to work in a dynamic and expanding organization. For full details and application form, please write to: DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHIATRY, The Queen's University of Belfast, Belfast, Northern Ireland. Closing date: 15th March 1976.

#### University of Western Australia CHAIR IN PSYCHOLOGY

Applications are invited for a Chair in this department. The successful applicant will be required to teach and supervise students in the field of psychology. The salary will be in the range of £2,400-£2,800 per annum, depending on experience. The successful candidate will be given the opportunity to work in a dynamic and expanding organization. For full details and application form, please write to: DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY, University of Western Australia, Perth, Australia. Closing date: 15th March 1976.

#### University of Glasgow LECTURESHIP IN ACCOUNTANCY

Applications are invited for a Lectureship in this department. The successful applicant will be required to teach and supervise students in the field of accountancy. The salary will be in the range of £2,400-£2,800 per annum, depending on experience. The successful candidate will be given the opportunity to work in a dynamic and expanding organization. For full details and application form, please write to: DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTANCY, University of Glasgow, Glasgow, Scotland. Closing date: 15th March 1976.

#### University College London LECTURER IN CHEMISTRY

Applications are invited for a Lectureship in this department. The successful applicant will be required to teach and supervise students in the field of chemistry. The salary will be in the range of £2,400-£2,800 per annum, depending on experience. The successful candidate will be given the opportunity to work in a dynamic and expanding organization. For full details and application form, please write to: DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY, University College London, London, England. Closing date: 15th March 1976.

#### University of Surrey DEPARTMENT OF BIOCHEMISTRY LECTURESHIP

Applications are invited for a Lectureship in this department. The successful applicant will be required to teach and supervise students in the field of biochemistry. The salary will be in the range of £2,400-£2,800 per annum, depending on experience. The successful candidate will be given the opportunity to work in a dynamic and expanding organization. For full details and application form, please write to: DEPARTMENT OF BIOCHEMISTRY, University of Surrey, Surrey, England. Closing date: 15th March 1976.

#### University of Leicester DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY LECTURESHIP

Applications are invited for a Lectureship in this department. The successful applicant will be required to teach and supervise students in the field of zoology. The salary will be in the range of £2,400-£2,800 per annum, depending on experience. The successful candidate will be given the opportunity to work in a dynamic and expanding organization. For full details and application form, please write to: DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY, University of Leicester, Leicester, England. Closing date: 15th March 1976.

#### University College London DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN GENETICS AND BIOMETRY RESEARCH ASSISTANT (Postdoctoral)

Applications are invited for a Research Assistant in this department. The successful applicant will be required to assist in research in the field of human genetics and biometry. The salary will be in the range of £2,400-£2,800 per annum, depending on experience. The successful candidate will be given the opportunity to work in a dynamic and expanding organization. For full details and application form, please write to: DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN GENETICS AND BIOMETRY, University College London, London, England. Closing date: 15th March 1976.

#### University College London DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY LECTURER

Applications are invited for a Lectureship in this department. The successful applicant will be required to teach and supervise students in the field of history. The salary will be in the range of £2,400-£2,800 per annum, depending on experience. The successful candidate will be given the opportunity to work in a dynamic and expanding organization. For full details and application form, please write to: DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY, University College London, London, England. Closing date: 15th March 1976.

#### University of Durham TEMPORARY LECTURESHIP IN ANTHROPOLOGY

Applications are invited for a temporary Lectureship in this department. The successful applicant will be required to teach and supervise students in the field of anthropology. The salary will be in the range of £2,400-£2,800 per annum, depending on experience. The successful candidate will be given the opportunity to work in a dynamic and expanding organization. For full details and application form, please write to: DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY, University of Durham, Durham, England. Closing date: 15th March 1976.

### THE BRITISH LIBRARY

## Research Assistants

There are ten posts in London involving the cataloguing (Anglo-American Cataloguing Rules and the MARC system) and subject indexing (PRECIS system) of new acquisitions.

Reference Division (5 posts)  
For work on foreign languages material. Degree with honours, or an equivalent qualification which includes a major element of study of one or more of the following languages: Spanish, Portuguese, Italian, Romanian, Hungarian or a Scandinavian language. Library qualification advantageous. Bibliographic Services Division (5 posts)  
For work on English language material. Library qualification essential, preferably with a degree.  
Salaries: as RA Grade I £2720-£4920 or RA Grade II £2615-£3990. Level of appointment and starting salary according to age, qualifications and experience. Non-contributory pension scheme.  
For further details and an application form (to be returned by 4 March 1976) write to: Civil Service Commission, Alencorn Link, Basingstoke, Hants RG21 1JB, or telephone Basingstoke (0256) 88551 (answering service operates outside office hours) or London 01-639 1992 (24-hour answering service). Please quote ref G/7382.



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FOR

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Desmond Hayes,  
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### UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS

#### University of Malaysia Faculty of Medicine CHAIR OF SURGERY

Applications are invited for a Chair in this department. The successful applicant will be required to teach and supervise students in the field of surgery. The salary will be in the range of £2,400-£2,800 per annum, depending on experience. The successful candidate will be given the opportunity to work in a dynamic and expanding organization. For full details and application form, please write to: DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY, University of Malaysia, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Closing date: 15th March 1976.

#### University of Surrey DEPARTMENT OF BIOCHEMISTRY LECTURESHIP

Applications are invited for a Lectureship in this department. The successful applicant will be required to teach and supervise students in the field of biochemistry. The salary will be in the range of £2,400-£2,800 per annum, depending on experience. The successful candidate will be given the opportunity to work in a dynamic and expanding organization. For full details and application form, please write to: DEPARTMENT OF BIOCHEMISTRY, University of Surrey, Surrey, England. Closing date: 15th March 1976.

#### University of Leicester DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY LECTURESHIP

Applications are invited for a Lectureship in this department. The successful applicant will be required to teach and supervise students in the field of zoology. The salary will be in the range of £2,400-£2,800 per annum, depending on experience. The successful candidate will be given the opportunity to work in a dynamic and expanding organization. For full details and application form, please write to: DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY, University of Leicester, Leicester, England. Closing date: 15th March 1976.

#### The Queen's University of Belfast SECOND CHAIR IN MECHANICAL ENGINEERING

Applications are invited for a Second Chair in this department. The successful applicant will be required to teach and supervise students in the field of mechanical engineering. The salary will be in the range of £2,400-£2,800 per annum, depending on experience. The successful candidate will be given the opportunity to work in a dynamic and expanding organization. For full details and application form, please write to: DEPARTMENT OF MECHANICAL ENGINEERING, The Queen's University of Belfast, Belfast, Northern Ireland. Closing date: 15th March 1976.

#### The University of Newcastle Upon Tyne CHAIR OF MEDIEVAL HISTORY

Applications are invited for a Chair in this department. The successful applicant will be required to teach and supervise students in the field of medieval history. The salary will be in the range of £2,400-£2,800 per annum, depending on experience. The successful candidate will be given the opportunity to work in a dynamic and expanding organization. For full details and application form, please write to: DEPARTMENT OF MEDIEVAL HISTORY, The University of Newcastle Upon Tyne, Newcastle Upon Tyne, England. Closing date: 15th March 1976.

#### University of Leicester ASSISTANT LIBRARIAN

Applications are invited for an Assistant Librarian in this department. The successful applicant will be required to assist in the management of the library. The salary will be in the range of £2,400-£2,800 per annum, depending on experience. The successful candidate will be given the opportunity to work in a dynamic and expanding organization. For full details and application form, please write to: DEPARTMENT OF LIBRARIANSHIP, University of Leicester, Leicester, England. Closing date: 15th March 1976.

#### University of Durham TEMPORARY LECTURESHIP IN ANTHROPOLOGY

Applications are invited for a temporary Lectureship in this department. The successful applicant will be required to teach and supervise students in the field of anthropology. The salary will be in the range of £2,400-£2,800 per annum, depending on experience. The successful candidate will be given the opportunity to work in a dynamic and expanding organization. For full details and application form, please write to: DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY, University of Durham, Durham, England. Closing date: 15th March 1976.

### FINANCIAL NEWS

## Coated Metals spurt past Walker's 85p

The directors of Coated Metals (Holdings) now explain in detail why the 85p share bid from C. Walker & Sons should be rejected.

Mr C. T. Canby, chairman of Coated Metals, in a letter to shareholders strongly urges them to reject the offer as "totally inadequate". The directors estimate that sales for the year to May 1, 1976, will be about £7m (against £5.1m) and pre-tax profits around £300,000. (For the preceding eight months to January 1, 1976, profits were about £143,000 against a loss of £102,000.) On this basis, the shares jumped 10p to 115p.

Prospects look good and the board expects to recommend a dividend for the year to May 1 next of 10.5p gross, the same rate as that paid for the year to April 28, 1973. (The dividend for the year to May 30, 1975, was reduced.)

The board will not accept for their own 2.6 per cent holding, and United Capital Investment Trust (of which Mr Canby is a director and substantial shareholder) with 4.9 per cent of CM, is also not accepting.

### £100m investment trust link planned

Two United Kingdom investment trusts with a combined investment of more than £100m plan to merge. They are Scottish Investment and Second Scottish Investment. A scheme of arrangement is being considered.

Both are Edinburgh-based. On February 5, investments of SCI were worth about £36m and those of SSI £66m. The terms of the merger will be announced shortly.

Mr Angus Grossart, chairman of the two trusts, said the board thought union would benefit both sets of shareholders. The trusts have the same directors and management.

### Cornercroft cut

The interim profits of Cornercroft went ahead by 13 per cent to £105,000, but the group was unable to keep it up in the second half-year. Pre-tax profits for the year to September 22 fell 22 per cent to £290,000. The board cuts the final dividend from 2.87p gross to 2.80p, bringing the total down from 4.12p to 4.0p. After an extraordinary credit of almost £5,000, attributable to a £1.5m gain on the sale of shares, the final dividend was £148,000, against £205,000. In April, the board warned shareholders that poor trading in the motor and aircraft industries would affect the results.

### Elbief hurt by costs

Though Elbief, in handbags and shoes, has reported higher sales for the first six months to October 31, rising costs cut pre-tax profits from £162,000 to £137,000. Even so, the interim dividend is 0.53p gross again. Directors and their associates have received their dividends on 7.8 million shares. The board says that sales so far are up on last year and orders are encouraging. In the year to April 30 last, the Birmingham-based group made pre-tax profits of £357,000, on sales of £1.7m.

### Law Debenture

The new-look Law Debenture Corporation has reported its final dividend of 3.43p gross for the 11 months to December 31. This brings the total to 4.97p. The board also forecasts a payment for the current year of about 5.54p gross.

The group has turned itself into an investment trust and it has repaid the Swiss Franc loan of its former subsidiary. Income does not accrue evenly over the trading period. So the results for the 11 months are not comparable with the 13 months to January 31, 1975. However, they do show total income of £898,000, against firm, and a net revenue before tax of £559,000, against a loss of £37,000. The basic net asset value a share is 91.8p against 58p.

### SAI falls short

Scottish Agricultural Industries, a subsidiary of ICI, fell short of its own profit hopes in the 15 months to December 31. Last September the board was talking about pre-tax profits of about £5m. The outcome was £4.5m, compared with £4.3m for the previous 12 months. At the interim stage, when the profit forecast was made, pre-tax profits of this year's forecast and feed-stuffs group were £2.5m for nine months, against £2.1m for the previous eight-month interim period. By contrast, group sales went ahead strongly from

£46.6m to £78.7m. The dividend for the 15-month period is 12.7p gross a share. This brings the total to 21.09p, compared 15.89p for the previous year.

### Sandhurst may through worst

An "appalling" first month of the year to May was suffered by Sandhurst. But this supplementary and chemical dyes maker did a bit better the closing two months: half year to December 31. Hulse, chairman, says this was the first time years that he has known the company to be employing their stationery.

Turnover for the six months ended March 31, but pre-tax profits fell to £35,000. The dividend is cut from 0.44p to 0.41p.

Trading in November and December brought the back to profits and the man thinks that the group is in better heart by the year.

### Further record by Noble Grossart

Another record profit from Noble Grossart Edinburgh-based private group for the year to January 31. Pre-tax profits by 29 per cent to £730,000. An economic recovery expected until 1977, a year should be a busy one for the group, Mr Grossart, chairman, says that this firm by the amount already taken on.

Apart from banking, merchant banking, the group has a subsidiary with a 25 per cent stake in North Sea interests, launched only seven years

### Wood Bastow now on the mend

Wood Bastow Holding, this business, this year, a "reasonable" buoyant recovery and lingerie duty reports pre-tax profit of £229,000 to £255,000. Sales rose from £3.425m. The interim dividend is 1.54p gross against 1.41p. Mr Wood, chairman, says that the group is ahead with diversification, the strengthening of its Demand varies from product and margins under pressure, but the outlook is bright. The shares hardened.

### CGFA ships less

Production at Con Gold Fields Australia's worthy Mining Company quarter to December 31 by 533,000 wet tonnes, a dispute, cyclone and the reduction of Japanese steel mills to blame. Shipments of by the Mount Goldswort Venturers amounted wet tonnes. Over the 1975, 7.48m wet tonnes shipped, against 8.05m.

### Martin The N°2

Martin The N°2 sold for 29p, £20.4m for the first 10 months of the year to February 28. London-based chain sales was trading was "satisfactory" in the year to October company expects to other 15 branches a further 15 establish. It will shut down branches. The company another 40 branches scheduled for modernisation.

### Int Comm Bank

International Commercial Bank, London-based bank, has increased its share price by



FINANCIAL  
Coated Metals  
Past Weeks

NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

lowest for some weeks

Morgan Grampian firmed 2p to 66p ahead of a Dutch approach said to be worth 70p a share. Hopes of a higher offer had Coated Metals 15p higher to 110p.

The undoubted features of the day was Dalgety, where Wednesday's interim advance added another 11p, to 249p. Inchange met with some good investment demand and added another 5p to 400p.

Other isolated features had Lantho, better by 3p to 131p and the higher Arab snake and James Finlay, where reorganization plans and a dividend forecast boosted the shares 3p to 137p.

Imperial Group, after the recent strength which followed results, shaded half a point to 84p as profits were taken and Channel Tunnel lost 6p to 54p for the same reason. Courtney Pope 65p and Lowe & Brydone 35p were both several pence ahead at one stage on speculative demand.

Small sellers stopped an attempt by gold shares to get firmer but uranium issues met with some demand, notably Pancontinental which put on 75p to £16.50.

But tin shares again started in the sector as the metal price went up again. The best were Ayr Hitam 10p to 182p, Southern Malaysian 7p to 125p and Geveor 5p to 170p.

Back in oils, Woodside Bernina was a notional bidder, jumped 7p to 113p on favourable advice from Australia.

Companies reporting results were Wades Department Stores up 4p to 44p after an interim dividend and Secretary General up 4p to 60p on the previous day's statement. There was some disappointment at Cornecroft.

Chips, the 12p, but confined to the ICI and GEC 1 Flomax 406p, to come to being the new loan £31.

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Wardle does better, cuts its borrowing, heads for good year

Bernard Wardle, the manufacturer of pvc sheeting and vinyl coated fabrics, managed to do better in the final six months to the end of November compared with the first half. Even so the performance, which included an exceptional item, was but a shadow of previous years.

Pre-tax profits rose from £25,100 in the first half to £25,700 in the full year but these include £169,000 compensation for delays in commissioning equipment at the Edinburgh plant. It also compares with £11m before tax made in 1974.

After passing the interim dividend, a final of 0.77p gross has been declared. This compares with 1.04p and a total of 1.58p in 1974. Over the year a group loss of £1.4m and a deficiency of £281,000 in shareholders funds.

Mr Lionel Casper, chairman of Crest, which was formerly part of the bidding consortium in the Angled Ashburne affair, tells shareholders that a scheme for capital reorganization is being prepared.

Mr Glazer, one of Crest's associates, is prepared to capitalize his £13,000 to the group, which arose through him repaying one of its banking liabilities on lines that would make him the company's principal shareholder.

The accounts show that Mr Casper and another director, Mr Brian Simmons, have substantially reduced their shareholdings over the year. Provisions of £32,000 have been made against a £162,000 loan advance by Crest to an associate company Worthingmore Finance, in which Messrs Simmons and Casper are also substantial shareholders.

There are writeoffs and provisions totalling just over £1m, £705,000 of which relate to falls in the value of group investments.

Jessel deficiency approaches £15m. The deficiency of assets as regards unsecured creditors in the Jessel Securities group of companies is £14m, according to a statement of affairs from the liquidator, Mr P. Shewell, of accountants, Coopers & Lybrand.

The principal assets remaining in the collapsed financial group are investments in four subsidiaries. Three are still trading and will be sold. These unquoted assets and loans amount to around £6.4m in value.

Upswing by Witter. A strong rally in the second half by Thomas Witter, the floor and wall covering group, leaves the pre-tax profit for the year to November 30 only 7.5 per cent down at £740,000. This was on sales of £17.8m against £15.6m, and compares with a profit slump at half time from £51,000 to £21,000. The board is holding the dividend at 3.3p gross out of earnings of 3.9p (3.5p).

New Bk of E dept. The Bank of England is forming a new department to bring together management of support services and non-staff resources. It will be called the

Briefly

MILLS AND ALLEN-VASSEUR. Group has bought further 40,000 shares in company taking total interest to 7,205,000 shares or 77.66 per cent.

WESTERN TITANIUM. Sales revenue in 26 weeks to end-December up 43.1 per cent to \$46.2m, but operating profit before tax down by 6.2 per cent to \$41.4m. Interim payment cut from 7 cents to 3.5 cents. Half-year results not necessarily indicative of those for year.

ATLAS COPCO. Net profit for 1975 up from 118m kr to 138m kr (about £15m) on group consolidated sales of £3.88m (£3.94m). Dividend 1.5 kr per share (5.50 kr). Despite unfavourable business climate, group export sales increased in sales during 1975.

LINER CONCRETE-FERGUSON. Ferguson Industrial Holdings has increased its stake in Liner and now holds 2.8m ordinary shares (29.31 per cent). At January 1976 it held 2m shares (21.6 per cent).

VOGELSTRUBBULT METAL. Pre-tax profits for 1975, £1.35m (£737,000), against £919,000. The dividend total is raised from 6c to 6.5c.

DEBENTURE CORPORATION. Total income for 1975, £1.53m (£1.47m). Total payment, 3.77p gross (3.43p gross). Net asset value per ordinary share at year-end, 91.6p (51p a year earlier).

TRIBUNE ENV TRUST. Pre-tax revenue for 1975, £623,000 (£633,000). Total dividend, 14.78p gross (12.68p gross).

CARDINAL INV TRUST. Revenue before tax for 1975, £537,000 (£526,000). Total payment, 6.33p gross (6.34p gross). Net asset value per deferred share (with full investment currency premium) at December 31, 179p (192p a year earlier).

WILLIAM RANSOM. Turnover for year up from £550,000 to £524,000 and pre-tax profit from £101,000 to £142,000. Full year's profits should be only slightly higher, warns company.

Administration Department and headed by Mr P. A. S. Taylor, present secretary of the Bank. The department will incorporate the secretary's department and that part of the establishment dealing with planning and budgeting of premises.

A final push at Jeff's Smurfit

Releasing its profits for the year to January 31 last, early year (they are usually published about the end of April), Jefferson Smurfit, its packaging and paper group, has achieved its objective of the second-best profits in its history.

Traditionally the second half-year is a lot better than the first. The opening spell saw a drop from £4.5m to £2.4m, but with the second six months turning in £3.5m, the total comes out at £6m compared with the record £8.1m of 1974-75. Turnover in the year was virtually stationary at £78.4m against £77.4m.

Net profits were £3.4m against £3.8m, on which diluted earnings a share were 13p against 14.9p. Borrowings fell from £12.1m to £3.6m. A dividend statement will be made soon. Last time the group paid 10p.

Aurora buys near 30 pc of E Sussex Eng

Aurora Holdings reports that it has bought a big stake in East Sussex Engineering Group. The deal is a move towards an all-out bid.

Aurora has acquired some 3.38 million ordinary shares in East Sussex (about 29.94 per cent of the equity) for around £773,000 cash. The Aurora directors "is not in a present intention of the board to make an offer for the balance of East Sussex ordinary shares".

Exports fillip to Bamfords' year

A 37 per cent jump in pre-tax profits to a record £618,000 was achieved by Bamfords for the year to September 30. At the half-way stage, the board told shareholders that costs were rising and it was cautious about the outlook. In the event, it says the improvement is owed to higher exports, better product mix and tighter controls.

This Uttroxteter-based group makes agricultural machinery, fencing, grey iron castings and roofing structures. Turnover was steady at under £11m. On a net profit of £237,000 (£216,000) the board is paying a dividend of 1.23p gross, compared with 1.12p. Sales in the first four months this year are up, but forward domestic orders are not so good because of doubts over the future agricultural policy.

W/M & Country Props

Almost halved turnover at £1.12m against £2.02m in the opening leg to October 31 saw pre-tax profit of Westminster & Country Properties slide into the red to the tune of £180,000 compared with a profit of £53,000. The company had a trading loss of £137,000 (profit of £292,000) and an associate loss of £43,000 (loss of £239,000). The net loss amounts to £115,000 compared with one of £15,000.

The fall in turnover was chiefly because of the fall in sales of industrial developments of about £1m. Pre-tax profit from this activity fell by £435,000.

ISLE OF MAN ASSOC INV

Board has agreed that company should acquire from Receivers of Trust Inv Trust 39.67 per cent of capital of Isle of Man and Overseas Estates Corp for £175,000.

ECONA

Turnover rose from £1.99m to £2.18m in half-year to September 30, but pre-tax profits fell from £185,000 to £168,000. Interim payment rises from 0.85p gross to 1.07p.

SAATCHI & SAATCHI COMPTON

First National Industrial Trust has sold its holding of 261,818 shares (7.4 per cent) in company. The shares were bought by Compton Advertising Inc, which now holds 19.9 per cent of company's stock.

KAKUZI

Turnover for nine months to November 30, £1.1m (£1.0m) and pre-tax profit, £438,000. Interim payment unchanged at 40 cents (Kenya). One-for-five scrip issue. Board hopes to recommend final of not less than 60 cents on increased capital.

HIGHGATE OPTICAL

A. J. Bekhor have bought 7,000 ordinary shares in Highgate Optical at 37p on behalf of Bayline Investments.

GENERAL CONSOLIDATED INV

Revenue before tax for 1975, £855,000 (£763,000). Total dividend, 3.85p gross (3.35p). Net asset value of ordinary shares was 80p at December 31 last (40p a year earlier).

LONSDALE UNIVERSAL

Lonsdale's subsidiary, E. Baggs and Sons, has acquired the freehold of the department store premises from which it trades at Silver St., Bedford, for £465,000.

SHIRES INVESTMENT

The dividend total for 1975-76 published in Wednesday's editions was incorrect. Total payments were 6.4p a share against 5.6p in 1974-75.

Paribas to pay more

Cie Financiere de Paris et des Pays Bas (Paribas) will raise its 1975 dividend, Mr Jacques Fouchier, chairman, told an investment conference in Paris. In 1974 the group paid 18.5 francs.

Direct Spanish policy changes

A fall in net revenue from £460,000 to £304,000 for the year to December 31 is the news from Direct Spanish Telegraph. It blames the drop on a big fall in liquidity, lower interest rates and, the restructuring of the portfolio. The cut in liquidity reflected the repayment of loans and a switch to Stock Exchange investment.

Pre-tax revenue fell from £751,000 to £374,000, but the unaudited net asset value of each ordinary share at December 31 was 57.3p against 43.7p, a rise of 31.1 per cent. The year's payment is 5.85p gross against 5.8p. The Slater, Walker holding in DST now stands at about 27 per cent.

John James rewarded by watching pennies

By Peter Elliott

By "watching every penny" and pushing exports, the John James Group of Companies hoisted pre-tax profits by 9 per cent to £757,000 in the half year to September 30. The board says that turnover rose by 25 per cent to £5.9m, but price controls pressed on margins. Even so, the improvement is being maintained.

Last year's performance was better than expected with pre-tax profits climbing 20 per cent to a record £1.68m. The improvement, according to Mr John James, chairman, stemmed from "initiative". Better

results from its toy manufacturing concerns. Tebbutt & Hall Bros and H. J. Godwin, also helped. Both companies recovered well from the three-day week and increased exports by 56 per cent. The chairman says that this trend has continued.

Last September, the board announced plans to consolidate all shares into one class to maintain group status as an investment trust after March 31. By putting together all their deferred shares and their 74 per cent "A" share stake, the directors and family will raise their voting strength from 62 per cent to 67.

MINERALS AND RESOURCES CORPORATION LIMITED

(Incorporated in Bermuda)

Report for the Half-Year Ended 31st December, 1975

The following are the unaudited results of Minerals and Resources Corporation Limited (Minoro) and its subsidiaries for the half-year ended 31st December, 1975, together with the comparative figures for the half-year ended 31st December, 1974 and the year ended 30th June, 1975. These should be read in conjunction with the adjoining notes:

	Half-Year Ended 31.12.75	Half-Year Ended 31.12.74	Year Ended 30.6.75
	US\$000s	US\$000s	US\$000s
Investment income:			
Dividends from investments (Note 1) .....	3 629	6 345	10 431
Interest and net sundry income (Note 3) .....	1 489	3 430	6 781
	5 118	9 775	17 212
Deduct:			
Administration and other expenses .....	711	661	1 431
Interest paid .....	192	255	365
Provision against prospecting investments (Note 6) ..	1 600	2 503	3 523
Profit before taxation .....	2 615	7 259	11 893
Foreign taxation (after adjustment for previous year) ..	30	94	476
Profit after taxation .....	2 585	7 165	11 417
Add: Transfer from prospecting reserve .....	—	—	323
Loss (Profit) arising from currency realignments ..	252	(1)	1 101
Less: Transfer from (to) currency reserve .....	(252)	1	(1 101)
Unappropriated profit brought forward .....	14 207	12 541	12 541
Adjustment thereto arising from currency fluctuations ..	84	—	252
	14 291	12 541	13 116
Available for appropriation ..	16 876	19 706	24 533
Appropriations:			
Transfer to capital reserve ..	169	—	—
Dividends:			
"A" ordinary shareholders (Note 4) .....	3 437	3 407	5 892
Ordinary shareholders .....	Nil	2 534	4 434
	—	(8 cents)	(14 cents)
Unappropriated profit carried forward .....	13 270	13 765	14 207
	16 876	19 706	24 533

Notes:

1. DIVIDENDS. The lower overall profits for the six months to 31st December, 1975 resulted mainly from reduced dividend income from the corporation's investments in copper. If the net dividend income received by the corporation from Engelhard Minerals & Chemicals Corporation and attributable to the "A" ordinary shareholders (see below) is excluded, the past six months resulted in a loss of approximately US\$552,000 attributable to the ordinary shares. Accordingly, no dividend has been declared on the ordinary shares.

In terms of the conditions of issue of the "A" ordinary shares of Minoro, the dividends totalling US\$3 461 558 received from Engelhard Minerals & Chemicals Corporation (EMC) were passed on, after deduction of expenses attributable thereto, to the holders of the "A" ordinary shares (see Note 4). The special arrangements relating to the "A" shares will terminate after the payment of any final dividends for the year ending 30th June, 1976 on the ordinary and/or "A" ordinary shares whereupon the "A" shares will become ordinary shares.

Minoro holds a 49.98 per cent interest in Zambia Copper Investments Limited (ZCI) which in turn holds a 49 per cent interest in Nchanga Consolidated Copper Mines Limited (NCCM) and a 12.25 per cent interest in Roan Consolidated Mines Limited (RCM). No dividends were declared by NCCM or RCM for the quarter ended 30th September, 1975, and there has been no change in the situation regarding the dividends previously paid to ZCI by NCCM and RCM which in terms of Zambian regulations are awaiting externalization.

2. LOAN TO ZCI. ZCI has been obliged as one of the principal shareholders in Botswana RST Limited (BRST), to provide substantial shareholders' loans to that company to enable it to meet its funding requirements to Bamangwato Concessions Limited, in which BRST holds an 85 per cent interest. This fact, combined with the inability of the Bank of Zambia to externalize on due date dividends received in Zambia by ZCI from NCCM and RCM (paragraph 3 of Note 1 refers), has severely strained ZCI's liquidity. To cope with ZCI therefore, the corporation has made loans at commercial rates of interest to ZCI. These loans, which are repayable before any further dividends are paid by ZCI, totalled US\$3 768 782 at 31st December, 1975.

3. INTEREST RECEIVED. Interest includes interest received from ZCI in respect of loans per Note 2 above.

4. "A" SHARES. a) Net profit attributable to the "A" ordinary shareholders is as follows:

Dividends from EMC .....	US\$3 461 558
Less: Expenses directly attributable to "A" ordinary shareholders plus amount retained .....	US\$ 24 887
Net profit distributed as in (b) below .....	US\$3 436 671

b) Dividends on "A" ordinary shares: No 5 of 3.65 cents (US) a share declared, 29th September, 1975 .....

No 6 of 4.55 cents (US) a share declared, 16th December, 1975 .....

US\$1 529 738

US\$1 906 933

US\$3 436 671

5. SMTF COPPER PROJECT IN ZAIRE. The attention of members is directed to the announcement published in the Press on 24th January, 1976 referring to the temporary suspension of the development of the Tenke-Fungurume project in Zaire.

Since the agreement for Minoro to acquire from Charter Consolidated Limited a participation in this project was conditional upon the completion of the financing, this arrangement now lapses. When the project goes ahead a participation for Minoro will be considered afresh.

6. PROSPECTING INVESTMENTS. The item "Provision against prospecting investments" represents a proportion of the estimated prospecting expenditure to be written off against profits earned in the year ending 3



## FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

## Alfa-Laval ahead but Saab-Scania slips up

Mixed 1975 results came from two of Sweden's largest concerns, Saab-Scania and Alfa-Laval. Car, truck and plane maker Saab-Scania reports pre-tax profits down a bit at 333m Kronor (£38.4m), but general engineer Alfa-Laval raised pre-tax profits by 5 per cent to 270m Kronor (£30.6m).

Saab-Scania's 1975 profits compare with 241m Kronor the year before. Group sales stood at 7,860m Kronor against 6,533m. The Data-Saba division scored a 46 per cent increase to 430m Kronor. Sales of the

## Overseas

Scania truck division rose by 23 per cent to 3,630m Kronor, and car sales went ahead by 21 per cent to 2,615m Kronor. The division's turnover last year was 513m Kronor against 312m. It went mainly on property, plant equipment and market organisation.

Alfa-Laval's bigger profits came from turnover up by 11 per cent to 3,500m Kronor. The board plans a one-for-four scrip issue at 75 Kronor a share, which will increase the share capital from 333.25m Kronor to 416.56m. The board is paying a dividend of 5 Kronor. The previous year's payment was 4 Kronor, allowing for a one-for-four scrip issue and a change in share value.

## Abercom predict higher payout

On turnover up from R26.37m to R50.76m (about £29m), pre-tax profit of Abercom Investments, the South African industrial and financial holding company, expanded by 29 per cent to R5.53m (£3.19m) in the six months ended December 31. A total dividend of not less than 38.5 cents is forecast for the year (against 26 cents).

Commenting on the second half, the directors state that the group's contract engineering companies remain "very busy" while other subsidiaries supplying consumer and housing durable are experiencing very competitive and slightly recessed conditions.

Turnover and profit were at record levels, they report, although the newly-acquired Hunslet Taylor operation added very little to profit in spite of substantial turnover contributions.

## Amey makes big US acquisition

Kyle, a concrete product manufacturer in Atlanta, Georgia, has been acquired for an undisclosed sum by Amey Roadstone of America, an offshoot of the United Kingdom based Amey Roadstone (ARC), which is itself part of the Gold Fields group.

The Kyle acquisition marks another step by Gold Fields to expand in the United States in an attempt to even up its four geographical operations based on the United Kingdom, South Africa, Australia and the United States.

Amey's United States subsidiary is fairly new; and the purchase of Kyle, which has an annual turnover of about \$25m (£12.5m), follows that of Cement Products of Florida.

## Pan American to cut first quarter loss

Pan American World Airways expects its loss for the March quarter to be less than the year-ago loss of \$59m—the worst ever—Mr William Seawell, chairman, told reporters in New York.

He said that although Pan-Am should have made money in the first five months of 1976 through the seasonal nature of its markets, there was a reasonable chance that the line could break even, or make money in the full year if world economies improved sufficiently and rate increases were adequate. For 1975 as a whole the company lost \$46m—Reuters.

## Commodities

COPPER was firmer, cash wire bars pulling up 20 and three months advanced 10 to 20 cents. Futures, March 1976, 200.00; May 1976, 200.00; July 1976, 200.00; Sept 1976, 200.00; Nov 1976, 200.00; Jan 1977, 200.00; Mar 1977, 200.00; May 1977, 200.00; July 1977, 200.00; Sept 1977, 200.00; Nov 1977, 200.00; Jan 1978, 200.00; Mar 1978, 200.00; May 1978, 200.00; July 1978, 200.00; Sept 1978, 200.00; Nov 1978, 200.00; Jan 1979, 200.00; Mar 1979, 200.00; May 1979, 200.00; July 1979, 200.00; Sept 1979, 200.00; Nov 1979, 200.00; Jan 1980, 200.00; Mar 1980, 200.00; May 1980, 200.00; July 1980, 200.00; Sept 1980, 200.00; Nov 1980, 200.00; Jan 1981, 200.00; Mar 1981, 200.00; May 1981, 200.00; July 1981, 200.00; Sept 1981, 200.00; Nov 1981, 200.00; Jan 1982, 200.00; Mar 1982, 200.00; May 1982, 200.00; July 1982, 200.00; Sept 1982, 200.00; Nov 1982, 200.00; Jan 1983, 200.00; Mar 1983, 200.00; May 1983, 200.00; July 1983, 200.00; Sept 1983, 200.00; Nov 1983, 200.00; Jan 1984, 200.00; Mar 1984, 200.00; May 1984, 200.00; July 1984, 200.00; Sept 1984, 200.00; Nov 1984, 200.00; Jan 1985, 200.00; 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Nov 2021, 200.00; Jan 2022, 200.00; Mar 2022, 200.00; May 2022, 200.00; July 2022, 200.00; Sept 2022, 200.00; Nov 2022, 200.00; Jan 2023, 200.00; Mar 2023, 200.00; May 2023, 200.00; July 2023, 200.00; Sept 2023, 200.00; Nov 2023, 200.00; Jan 2024, 200.00; Mar 2024, 200.00; May 2024, 200.00; July 2024, 200.00; Sept 2024, 200.00; Nov 2024, 200.00; Jan 2025, 200.00; Mar 2025, 200.00; May 2025, 200.00; July 2025, 200.00; Sept 2025, 200.00; Nov 2025, 200.00; Jan 2026, 200.00; Mar 2026, 200.00; May 2026, 200.00; July 2026, 200.00; Sept 2026, 200.00; Nov 2026, 200.00; Jan 2027, 200.00; Mar 2027, 200.00; May 2027, 200.00; July 2027, 200.00; Sept 2027, 200.00; Nov 2027, 200.00; Jan 2028, 200.00; Mar 2028, 200.00; May 2028, 200.00; July 2028, 200.00; Sept 2028, 200.00; Nov 2028, 200.00; Jan 2029, 200.00; Mar 2029, 200.00; May 2029, 200.00; July 2029, 200.00; Sept 2029, 200.00; Nov 2029, 200.00; Jan 2030, 200.00; Mar 2030, 200.00; May 2030, 200.00; July 2030, 200.00; Sept 2030, 200.00; Nov 2030, 200.00; 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**SCHOOL OF DENTAL SURGERY**  
(UNIVERSITY OF LONDON)  
21, Pond Street, London NW2 2TL.  
W.C.2.  
Secretary to Department of Dental Surgery, Royal Dental Hospital of London. The post is full-time, permanent, and involves a high level of responsibility. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the department, including the booking of patients, the management of staff, and the preparation of reports. The salary is £2,000 p.a. plus benefits. Applications should be sent to the Director of the School of Dental Surgery, Royal Dental Hospital of London, 21, Pond Street, London NW2 2TL.

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### SECRETARY/PA for Architect

Small firm of Architects, seeks PA/Secretary with fair knowledge of French and Spanish, and willing to do bookkeeping.  
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### DESIGN COUNCIL requires PA to assist with day-to-day running of the company, including the management of staff, the preparation of reports, and the booking of patients. The salary is £2,000 p.a. plus benefits. Applications should be sent to the Director of the company, 21, Pond Street, London NW2 2TL. AUDIO VISUAL OPERATOR Small firm of Architects, seeks PA/Secretary with fair knowledge of French and Spanish, and willing to do bookkeeping. 720 5148 THEATRE APPLICANT Small firm of Architects, seeks PA/Secretary with fair knowledge of French and Spanish, and willing to do bookkeeping. 720 5148 TOP CLASS Litigation and Property Small firm of Architects, seeks PA/Secretary with fair knowledge of French and Spanish, and willing to do bookkeeping. 720 5148

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### S.W.2. Beautifully furnished

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Some of the best furnished flats in the area. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the company, including the management of staff, the preparation of reports, and the booking of patients. The salary is £2,000 p.a. plus benefits. Applications should be sent to the Director of the company, 21, Pond Street, London NW2 2TL.

### DOUBLE FLAT, 220 Holland Park Ave. W.11

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ing

money. The Money Programme stops for a moment to consider the

ject, with help from the Old Lady of Threadneedle Street and others

in Liver Birds, scarcely warranted a new series but at least

back again to bolster the fun (BBC1 8.0). Professor Hoskins,

re English landscape, arrives at the Black Country (BBC2 7.50).

Room, about the booby-trap bomb, was a film of much suspense

(1.37). Choice of school provides an early-evening topic (ITV 6.0).

pics span the day (BBC1 1.0, 7.10 and 9.25).—L.B.

BBC 2

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